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MK NEWS

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Builders who caught burglar up for award

SEE **PAGE 11**

Concrete cows make mooves to help Sport Relief

SEE **PAGE 7**

Race winner: Devon won yesterday's pancake race, following in the footsteps of mum Lesley

Devon follows her flipping mum

MAYBE it was destiny that Devon Byrne, 18, would win yesterday's Olney Pancake Race in a record time of 58.5 seconds.

Her mum, Lesley, is also a three-time winner and it was on the morning of her final success in 1993 that she discovered she was pregnant with Devon.

Yesterday's winner said: "She found out that morning, but still ran. I would have got some stick if I hadn't beaten her time."

Then again, it could be training and skill that won Devon the race - she is a heptathlete with MK Athletics Club after all.

For more on yesterday's Olney Pancake Race, see pages 12 and 13.

Last week we revealed plans for 600 new jobs in the city, now we can exclusively tell you we are...

...on track for another 1,000

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

THE city has more reason to celebrate this week after Network Rail revealed that its new headquarters will bring 1,000 jobs to Milton Keynes.

The new building, situated on the former national hockey stadium site, will house 3,000 employees and a third of them will be recruited from the area.

People who would not think of Network Rail as an employer are being encouraged to look at what vacancies the company has to offer.

A wide range of jobs are available at the offices, which span across various disciplines.

A spokesman for Network Rail said: "There are a lot of roles that people wouldn't think that Network Rail would offer.

"When people think of Network Rail they think of construction workers in their high visibility jackets but we also need people who help with the general running of rail services on a daily basis."

Staff will start moving into the headquarters in June and the building will be fully staffed by the autumn.

The spokesman added: "Obviously this is a boost for Milton Keynes' economy and we are committed to Milton Keynes, but our aim is to enable as many people as possible to keep their current jobs.

"If for whatever reason this is not possible then we'll offer the positions to local people."

Jobs that are now available have been passed up by current employees who do not wish to relocate.

However, Network Rail explained that these vacancies are not connected to the news that current employees could be made redundant if they could not get to the new Milton Keynes offices within 75 minutes.

The new National Rail HQ in the city

This stipulation was defended by the company, which said it is not an unprecedented requirement and explained it was put in place to protect the work and home life balance of its employees.

The spokesman said: "This isn't something that has just been sprung on the employees in the last week, they have known this for some time and we will offer help to anyone who has to relocate."

Some of the positions have already been filled but there are many more still available at www.networkrail.co.uk/jobs.

■ To read all the reaction to the news, turn to page 2.

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Family's hunting for missing Michael, 14

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A DESPERATE family has been scouring the city searching for a missing 14-year-old boy.

Michael West went missing from his home in Broadlands, Netherfield, on his 13-year-old sister's birthday on Thursday.

Since then his brother Daniel, 20, and dad John Jordan have been putting up posters around the city, with pictures of Michael and telephone numbers to call.

They have also been searching all the areas where they think he might be.

Daniel said: "We are really worried - Michael is asthmatic and is allergic to penicillin.

"I just want to let him know that everyone's missing him and we just want him home.

"We've put the posters up in bus stops, shop windows, on lamp-posts, just anywhere people will see them in the estates we think he might go - we've printed off about 60 or 70 of them.

Missing: Michael West

"He usually hangs around in Coffee Hall, Beanhill, Netherfield, Tinkers Bridge and Fishermead.

"We've got people in every estate looking for him."

Michael, who goes to White Spire School in West Bletchley, has only been heard from once, through a message on social networking site Facebook, since he went missing.

Daniel said: "He sent the message telling us all that he was safe and that he misses us all.

"As soon as we saw that he was on Facebook we had everyone trying to ask him where he was, but he just said he was safe."

Last year Michael went missing for a couple of days, but turned up safe at his mum's house.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts is urged to call the police on 101, or John and Daniel on 07549 919221, 01908 550782, or 07973 921983.

Traffic fears delay plans for casino

THE decision over planning permission for a casino in the Xscape building has been postponed until March 15 so that concerns over traffic can be addressed.

Rather than reject the application the development and control committee at Milton Keynes Council decided last Thursday to defer a decision and allow time for a more rigorous traffic assessment to be carried out.

Issues were raised regarding the validity of the current assessment because it placed emphasis on traffic between 2 and 3pm on a Saturday.

Committee members questioned how this would be applicable to a 24-hour casino which was likely to attract visitors in the evening.

Although it was explained assessments were carried out at this time because this is the busiest period at the Xscape, members of the committee said no consideration had been given to distinguishing between nighttime and daytime economy.

It was reported the casino would generate 33 more trips during peak times but because the bowling alley is being reduced to 18 lanes it is thought this figure will less.

Campaigners against the casino criticised the case studies used in the report.

Although traffic at other casinos was considered, these venues were not comparable in size to the proposed facility at the Xscape.

Linda Inoki, from pressure group Xplain, said:"This is a private members casino with 16 slot machines so the comparison is irrelevant."

The new date that was set will not infringe on the licensing decision, which is due to take place on March 26.

Network Rail jobs boost

WITH the news the new Network Rail headquarters will bring a further 1,000 jobs to Milton Keynes, MK NEWS asked city leaders for their views on what this will mean for the area.

"THE arrival of Network Rail's regional HQ into the Milton Keynes area is another success story for our city. The jobs it will bring and the knock on economic effects of people working in the city centre cannot be underestimated. Once again a major national organisation has shown faith that Milton Keynes is to be taken very seriously and it is a can do city."

David Hopkins, cabinet member for economic development and enterprise

"THE Chamber welcomes the arrival of Network Rail in Milton Keynes as a clear indication of the confidence that large companies have in investing in Milton Keynes. The city and North Bucks has a wealth of knowledge based talent to fill the jobs created by the head office opening, as recent statistics published by the Centre for Cities reported."

Colin Fox, chief executive of Milton Keynes and North Bucks Chamber of Commerce

"WE ARE delighted to see a leading private sector company creating a significant number of workplace opportunities in Milton Keynes, which will attract people from the entire South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership region. The jobs created by Network Rail will also help to stimulate the local housing market and deliver significant growth generally to our economy."

Dr Ann Limb, chairman of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership

"THIS is yet again another example of the underlying strength of our economy and our attractiveness to inward investors. I know that the Open University, Milton Keynes College and UCMK continue to work with employers to ensure that locally, we have the skills employers are looking for. This news is very positive for our local economy and other sectors will certainly benefit as jobs are created."

Iain Stewart, MP for Milton Keynes South

"I AM pleased that Network Rail will be creating 1,000 new jobs in Milton Keynes. It is particularly good that they will be in such a varied range of skill sets meaning opportunities for both experienced technicians and managers, as well as first time employees."

Mark Lancaster, MP for Milton Keynes North

www.futures-for-children.org

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To find out more about fostering, call Rachel Beasley or Linda Bennett on 01908 286644

New man at oldest band

THE borough's oldest brass band now has a new musical director.

Former Band Sergeant Major Paul Welch takes over the reigns of Wolverton Town Band, which has a history dating back more than 100 years.

He said: "I'd been off the music scene after I moved to Milton Keynes two years ago but I recently saw Wolverton Town Band were needing new people and thought it would be a good opportunity to get back into playing again.

"I didn't know at the time that they were also looking for a musical director.

"I'm looking forward to helping the band re-establish itself, making good music and encouraging more players to join, especially young players."

Paul started playing the trombone at the age of 13. After he left school, he joined the Band of Her Majesty's Irish Guards and served for 24 years travelling all over the world.

If you would like to join the band, call 0845 225 0464, or visit www.wolvertontownband.org.uk.

Musical director: Paul Welch is a former Band Sergeant Major

Mental health unit gets the go-ahead

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO

anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

THERE was public outcry on Thursday night when controversial plans to build a mental health centre were given the green light.

Despite a protest outside the Milton Keynes Council building, members of the planning committee approved the plans for the former White Hart pub in West Bletchley, with eight in favour and two abstaining.

Campaigners argued the company's reputation was a cause for concern.

Naomi Sinclair, chairman of the White Hart Campaign Group, said: "On one of their sites there was a complaint that a beer bottle was thrown from inside the site onto a neighbour's property."

The planning officer recognised residents' concerns but said Cambian had tried to allay these worries.

An admissions policy will exclude psychopaths, sex offenders, paedophiles, patients with a history of serious reoffending, people requiring secure facilities and those with a primary diagnosis of substance abuse from the facility.

Richard Woodford, planning consultant for Cambian, said: "There is no evidence suggesting that Cambian's existing facilities have resulted in drops in property value, nor is there any evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour by police."

West Bletchley Parish Council said it is extremely disappointed by the council's decision and is waiting for a report to be distributed to all its members for their consideration.

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Shootings trial to begin

THE trial of three men accused of the murder of two teenagers shot in Fishermead is expected to start today. Yahya Harun, 21, of Fishermead Boulevard, Sharmake Abdulkadir, 21, of The Fleet, Springfield, and Fuad Awale, 24, of no fixed abode, have each pleaded not guilty to two charges of murder. Mr Abdulkadir has also pleaded not guilty to possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. Mohamed Abdi Farah and Amin Ahmed Ismail died in an alleyway in May last year.

Young Trade Fair

HUNDREDS of young entrepreneurs from across the south east converged on thecentre:mk at the weekend for the Young Enterprise Trade Fair, in which 15 to 19-year-olds set up and run their own real companies for a year. City schools taking part included Walton High and Ousedale.

Men storm house in burglary

A MAN was assaulted with a screwdriver in an aggravated burglary in Heelands on Sunday.

At around 9.35pm, the occupants of an address in Swinden Court - a 16-year-old girl and a 25-year-old man - heard a knock at the door.

When the girl opened the door, three men wearing dark clothing and with their faces covered forced their way in.

The man was assaulted before the men made off with keys and a mobile phone.

It is believed he was assaulted with a screwdriver and the butt of a firearm during the incident.

He suffered minor injuries and received treatment at Milton Keynes Hospital.

Anyone with information is urged to call the police on 101.

Firemen's 100k charity trek

THREE on-call firefighters from the area will be joining five others in a 100 kilometre challenge.

Jon Bonich and Jack Revitt, from Olney Fire Station, and Rico Zad, who works at Broughton Fire Station, will be taking part in the London to Brighton Challenge on May 12 and 13.

It all starts in Richmond Park and ends at Brighton Pier, and must be completed by walking, running and jogging in 30 hours. Each of them will also be wearing full firefighting and breathing apparatus kit.

They will be joined by five other retained firefighters from Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/BFRS-RDS-London2Brighton Challenge2012.

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We also deliver an additional 8,000 copies each week into public buildings, offices, industrial areas, bars, restaurants and shops for people to read that may not live locally and receive a copy at home.
According to the latest independent, audited readership figures, MK NEWS has a weekly readership in excess of 130,000 adults and this figure is growing as we add on more copies to our distribution across MK. We aim to deliver the best possible service to our readers but if you have any questions or concerns about distribution please feel free to contact our team on the number listed above. Our deliverers earn top rates of pay. If you'd like to join our team please contact the distribution department on the number above.

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Thank you for making tracks to our exhibition

SIR - On behalf of Milton Keynes Model Railway Society, I would like to thank the large number of your readers who came along to our model railway exhibition in Bletchley on Saturday.

We had a record attendance with nearly 1,800 people coming along.

I'd also like to apologise to anyone who found the crowds rather uncomfortable at times - we hope this didn't spoil your enjoyment of the show.

Please rest assured that we are already looking at ways of revising the show to cope better with large crowds. We'll let MK NEWS readers know as soon as we have finalised our plans for 2013.

If you have two minutes to complete a short survey about the exhibition, please visit www.mkmrs.org.uk/feedback. We would really appreciate you letting us know your views.

Ian Bartlett
MK Model Railway Society

High praise for those who go the extra mile

SIR - Please can you put a note in your paper for the people in Milton Keynes that go the extra mile to help someone.

Earlier this month I recieved a telephone call from a security duty manager at Midsummer Place. The lady, called Heidi, advised me my sister, who has learning difficulties and is insulin dependant, had been stranded at the centre due to bad weather.

She went out of her way, even though she was short staffed, to care for my sister and make sure she got safely home to Monkston.

A taxi could not get to my sister so she arranged for Thames Valley Police to escort her home.

I would like say a big thank you to Heidi and the police for going the extra mile to help someone in need. If it was not for these people I do not want to think what could of happened to my sister.

Amanda McDiarmid
Sent by e-mail

I don't believe it!

SIR - I realise I am growing more like Victor Meldrew by the day but I really do have something to complain about and to say 'I don't believe it'.

This issue should be of central concern to the proponents of the Big Society.

When I moved here 34-years-ago, my bank had an address and a telephone number.

Now they have neither, at least not readily accessible to their customers. Trying to contact them sends you to a call centre and they would prefer you just to use the internet.

Taxation was dealt with locally in Bletchley. One could stand a very good chance of speaking to the same person each time. Now you never speak to the same person twice.

You could find out about trains by calling Bletchley station. I recall once the man who answered told me he was putting his head out of the window to give me updated information.

Surely, the Big Society requires local contact, yet so much is moving in the opposite direction.

Frederick Toates
Sent by e-mail

Your comments on our stories

Post your thoughts online at www.mk-news.co.uk

REGARDING the plans to build a mental health centre in West Bletchley being given the go-ahead by Milton Keynes Council.

I thought Milton Keynes councillors were elected by the people for the people and their concerns for a better Milton Keynes?

Name and address supplied

THIS is excellent news - a common sense decision by our councillors.

An essential mental health facility providing new jobs in a deprived area - and we get rid of an ugly eyesore as a bonus.

What is it the local campaigners are against - the new jobs? Getting rid of a derelict building? Or was it just a prejudiced fear of mental health issues?

Name and address suplied

THIS is absolutely stupid. People will now petition to stop it. We don't want a rehabilitation centre where I live.

Daniel Rodger
Via Twitter

GOOD! I live nearby this development and think it's just a bunch of NIMBYs peddling fear.

Name and address supplied

IT IS disappointing news about the White Hart development. The area is too built up already.

Andrew Pakes
Via Twitter

WITH reference to the story 'Cabbie refuses to take 33-stone fare'.

The cab driver was probably a little tactless in his remarks but I wouldn't allow a person weighing 33 stone into my car either.

Anybody who has been 'diagnosed' as obese has an obligation to accept personal responsibility for their size/weight problems.

Granted some medical conditions can lead to obesity but an equal number of medical conditions (if not more) are brought on by being overweight. In my humble opinion some people may be forgetting which came first.

I would also like to add that, in my opinion, parents shouldn't allow their children to become obese.

I see many children out and about in MK who obviously have weight problems and the only ones to blame are the parents.

Unfortunately we live in the 'takeaway food because I can't be bothered' era and parents' inability to make the right choices for their children will lead to a plethora of complications in the future.

Not just for their poor children who don't know any better but also on a local, national and even global scale.

Name and address supplied

REGARDING your story about ambulance worker Gary Davies.

He has a great sense of humour and a passion for looking after the patients.

He was an unreplaceable asset to the service and will be missed.

All the best for all his future endevours.

Simon and Tracy Maxwell

Jon Brett's City Life

His fortnightly column written exclusively for MK NEWS

THE controversial sport of mixed martial arts is taking off in Milton Keynes following the opening of a new gym by a former British kick boxing champion.

Since winning his title in 1988, Darren Ward now concentrates on passing his skills onto others at the Immortal Gym in Bradwell Abbey, where he is managing director.

To the untrained eye, a mixed martial arts bout in a caged ring looks like two sweaty, usually tattooed men, trying to beat the living daylights out of each other, lacking the entertainment value of wrestling or the discipline of boxing.

And when a special junior bout was arranged elsewhere in the country recently, it created massive controversy when a parent filmed two children fighting each other in a 20'x20' cage.

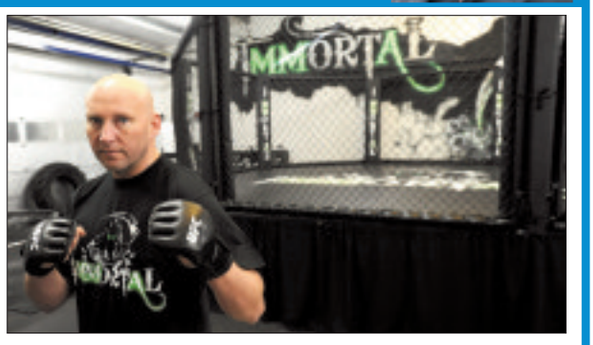
Darren, 43, disagrees and says people got the wrong idea.

He said: "Firstly, mixed martial arts is the fastest growing sport in the world and secondly, we teach kids kick boxing, not cage fighting. That video was kids doing judo in a cage. If it had been on mats, no-one would have said anything.

"The cage has a stigma, but it was invented to make kick boxing and martial arts safer."

Darren says his gym is not competing with the likes of others and most people attend to train and get fit, not to take part in mixed martial arts bouts.

Since opening last August, membership has grown to include



more than 60 children.

"The gym is also popular with women," added Darren.

"Everyone is welcome here and there are no egos, it's just a great place to train."

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£25k benefit fraudster in court

A WOMAN who claimed an array of benefits despite inheriting £100,000 in 2007 has avoided jail.

Details of undisclosed bank accounts in which she held the small fortune came to light following a routine data match carried out jointly between Milton Keynes Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

On Friday, Milton Keynes magistrates heard how Samantha Mackenzie-Smith, of Townsend Grove, New Bradwell, claimed just short of £25,000 in benefits, including housing and council tax benefits and Jobseekers Allowance, from April 2008 to June 2011.

Mackenzie-Smith had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of benefit fraud.

She received a 12-week jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, and was also ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work. The magistrates also ordered her to pay £500 towards the prosecution costs.

A council benefits fraud spokesman said: "We're very pleased with the outcome of this case, which sends a clear message that if you are involved in fraudulent benefit claims, we will catch you."

Community takes action over drug

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

THE city's Somalian community is battling to make the drug khat illegal in the UK.

This was the topic of discussion at Milton Keynes Somali Community Association's inaugural meeting on Friday where city MP Mark Lancaster spoke in support of the campaign.

Adan Kahin, the association's community development manager, said: "We have a large Somalian community in Milton Keynes and this drug impacts on crime, education and the youth."

After khat was outlawed by the Dutch last month the UK became the only Western European country where the drug is legal, prompting a protest outside of Downing Street last Wednesday.

Mr Lancaster said: "It's the community themselves that want to see action taken.

"It's a topic that's been floating around parliament for 13 years and finally we seem to be seeing some action."

The drug is popular within the Somalian community and the MK Somali Association wants to raise awareness of its use and the social implications it has.

Speaking at the event recovering addict, Abkar Awleh, said: "Khat means to grab hold and capture something and that is certainly what it did to me.

"It nearly destroyed my life."

Ban call: Adan Kahin is one of the people campaigning against khat

Khat causes excitement, loss of appetite and euphoria but unlike many drugs it is difficult to tell when someone has taken it.

Currently there are more than 1,500 Somalis living in the city and up to a third are believed to be regular users of khat.

The drug is readily available within the Somali community.

Mr Lancaster said: "I am continuing to press the issue of khat in Westminster and will be highlighting the issue with the Home Secretary.

"I will not rest until this substance is banned in the UK."

WHAT IS KHAT?

- A plant grown in Africa and the Middle East
- Its leaves are chewed among Somali, Ethiopian and Yemeni communities.
- Khat can induce manic behaviours and hyperactivity similar in effect to those produced by amphetamine.
- An estimated 10million people globally chew khat on a daily basis.
- The World Health Organisation classified it as a drug of abuse that can produce mild to moderate psychological dependence

MKNEWS BRIEFS

Tell your shorthand tale

A CITY shorthand training company is calling on former students to help celebrate 175 years since the writing form was invented. Pitman Training is compiling a book of stories from people who changed their careers with shorthand. The most interesting story will get £250 cash and £1,000 training. Visit www.trainingthenation.co.uk.

Thyroid group meeting

THE next British Thyroid Foundation event will take place on Saturday, March 3 at the Open University Pavilion. Visit www.thyroidmk.co.uk.

£8k for dogs charity

THE city supporter group for Dogs for the Disabled, which trains assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities, raised £8,127.05 last year.

Pedestrian seriously hurt after being struck by car

A PEDESTRIAN was seriously injured after being hit by a car on Sunday.

At 12.10am, a 33-year-old man was struck by a dark coloured VW Passat on H2 Millers Way, underneath a pedestrian bridge, near the junction with Hodge Lea Lane.

The vehicle did not stop at the scene.

The pedestrian was taken to Milton Keynes Hospital with serious injuries to his pelvis and shoulder.

The vehicle is believed to have stickers on its doors with the word 'Speedline' on them.

Following the collision, the vehicle drove off in the direction of V5 Great Monks Street and Stacey Bushes.

Investigating officer PC Sam Forsyth, based at the Roads Policing Unit in Milton Keynes, said: "I would like to speak to anyone who witnessed the collision or who has information about the whereabouts of the dark-coloured VW Passat or the driver.

"The vehicle would have suffered damage, possibly dents to the front bumper and bonnet and damage to the windscreen.

"The front number plate was hanging off when the vehicle left the scene and the driver is described as being Asian."

If you can help, call PC Forsyth on 101.

If you do not want to speak directly to the police you can contact independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or visit its website at crimestoppers-uk.org.

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Get mooving for Sport Relief: The Concrete Cows were snapped showing their support yesterday

Cows get sporty for charity events

BREAKING moos - the world-famous Concrete Cows in Midsummer Place are throwing their weight behind this year's Sport Relief.

The herd was spotted sporting the latest attire and showing their support for the charity initiative yesterday.

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile is taking place on Sunday, March 25, and there are other fundraising events taking place across the city in the run up to the big day.

And, although they can't take part, the cows are clearly backing all the runners and fundraisers.

From the money raised, MK NEWS, in association with Sport Relief and MK Community Foundation, has £50,000 to give away to sports teams, community groups, charities and any other organisation that makes a difference in Milton Keynes.

To help raise the cash, visit www.sportrelief.com.

■ **For more on Sport Relief, turn to page 27.**

HOW TO APPLY

MAKE sure you apply for a Sport Relief Community Cash grant now by visiting www.mkcf.co.uk/Supporting-You/Grants/Sport-Relief-Community-Cash, where you will be asked to enter an e-mail address. An application form will then be e-mailed to you.

If you need to receive the form in a different format, call the Community Foundation grants team on 01908 690276, or visit MK Community Foundation, Acorn House, 381 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 16.

Applicants will be notified of the panel's decision after April 20.

City's transport is up for discussion

BY DAN PALMER

dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

THE local authority has vowed to improve the city's transport network and it wants the public's help to do it.

An eight-week consultation period is currently underway and Milton Keynes Council is asking for input from residents as it tries to bring things up to speed.

It has published a review of its Transport Vision and Strategy guide – which outlines policies and programmes for a 20-year period between 2011 and 2031 – and wants to know your thoughts.

Councillor John Bint, cabinet member for transport and highways, said: "Transport plays a vital role in the life of Milton Keynes residents, visitors and businesses and the continuing growth of Milton Keynes requires improvements to the road networks and transport we use on a daily basis.

"The transport strategy review puts in place the required processes for these improvements.

"I urge everyone to take part in this consultation and give your views on this important review of the transport strategy."

The council's transport vision aims to provide real and attractive transport choices to encourage more sustainable travel behaviour as the city grows.

To take part in the consultation, which runs until March 23, visit www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/transport-strategy.

Trader sold fake JLS clothing

A TRADER has avoided jail after he was caught selling counterfeit clothes on a market.

Harkesh Kumar, 53, from Birmingham, appeared before Milton Keynes magistrates on Friday to plead guilty to selling counterfeit goods.

He admitted two offences of selling counterfeit clothing and ten offences of possessing counterfeit clothes for sale in the course of his business. He received four weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months.

Magistrates also made him subject to an unpaid work order of 100 hours. He was also ordered to pay £2,008.72 prosecution costs.

Before the JLS concert in July 2011, trading standards found JLS clothing displayed for sale on a stall in Central Milton Keynes.

Officers bought a JLS and a Justin Bieber T-shirt from Kumar and both items were confirmed as counterfeit.

As a result, officers seized more than 490 suspect counterfeit items from his stall, including 22 items of JLS and 13 items of Justin Bieber branded clothing.

The magistrates remarked that the case was serious given the variety and number of items seized.

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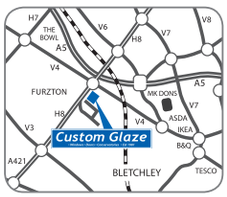

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Tom Billington with members of Inter-Action MK's inclusive performing arts group

Cuts hit disadvantaged residents

CHARITIES could suffer from proposed cuts in this year's budget.

A five per cent cut was recommended for Inter-Action MK but was opposed by the Liberal Democrats.

This follows the recent announcement that Home-Start Milton Keynes has been forced to close down after it lost council funding.

Inter-Action MK helps disadvantaged people in the city and the cut will reduce the amount of activities it can run.

Sharon Paulger, director of Inter-Action MK, said: "We do not understand why it is proposed that we get a bigger percentage cut than some other arts organisations.

"Following the significant cut in our grant last year we have already had to change how we work and this unfortunately has included people being made redundant."

The charity is determined to carry on but says the continual erosion of grant support will inevitably have an impact on what it can do.

WHAT LABOUR WOULD LIKE TO SEE

LABOUR has called for the Tories to remove the charge for bulky waste collections.

It believes charges will lead to higher levels of fly-tipping and rubbish being dumped.

The party has expressed its commitment to helping older people stay independent. At the full council meeting last night, Labour was expected to propose £200,000 more for disabled adaptations to people's homes and £10,000 to remove the £25 charge introduced when a resident joins the community alarm service.

To address the problem of parking in the city, Labour was due to propose that the Government should invest an extra £160,000 in the provision of match funded parking schemes.

Its final proposal was for £400,000 of investment in homes to help tackle fuel poverty. Measures would focus on insulating homes and improving heating.

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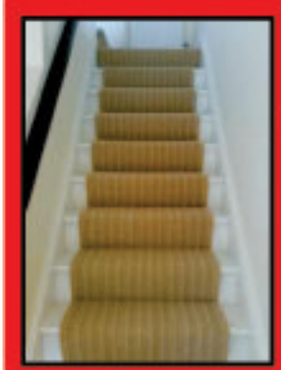

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Plan to axe top bosses

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

AXING senior staff could save Milton Keynes Council £2,000,000, according to the Liberal Democrats.

They believe council bosses earning more than £100,000 should be forced to quit their jobs to save front line services.

Leader councillor Sam Crooks, *pictured*, announced several budget amendments at last Tuesday's cabinet meeting.

The most severe demands that at least 20 posts are scrapped, including senior managers, directors and assistant heads.

Last year, following millions of pounds worth of budget cuts, the council shrank by almost one-third through general cuts and natural wastage.

The Lib Dems want to see a similar reduction in senior staff over the next two years.

Cllr Crooks said: "We are concerned that a number of savings that could be made are not being made and as a result cuts are being made to front line services.

"If we were to decide that a position paying £100,000 was unnecessary then that's £100,000 that we could save."

Cllr Crooks believes the council could compensate for these losses by cutting back on bureaucracy and increasing its efficiency.

The Lib Dems have also proposed an increase in the budget for short breaks for children's carers. If this recommendation is passed, they believe it would allow officers to respond to demand by spreading current eligibility criteria more widely.

In agreement with Labour, the party wants to get rid of the proposal to introduce charges for bulky waste collections.

These budget amendments were due to be put to the vote at last night's full council meeting.

To find out what happened, visit www.mk-news.co.uk.

THE CONSERVATIVES' BUDGET PROPOSALS

WITH a funding gap of £59million the council has proposed a number of recommendations.

The gap needs to be addressed over the next four years but there is currently a council tax freeze in place.

A reduction in Government funding has meant the council needs to reduce its costs and increase its income in order to produce a balanced budget.

As previously reported by MK NEWS, plans include an increase of certain service charges, plus a £350,000 saving which will be made through charging for bulky waste collections.

As part of a raft of changes, £211,000 is set to be saved by reducing bus subsidies.

There will also be an average rent increase for council tenants of 6.1 per cent, bringing this up to £83.08 per week.

Council leader Andrew Geary said that setting this year's budget was a challenge and disruptions to services were looked at as a last resort.

Mr Geary, *pictured below*, added: "This budget is strong and we are confident we can deliver it.

"There is always a risk but our plans are sustainable."

All proposed cuts were due to be rubber stamped at last night's meeting.

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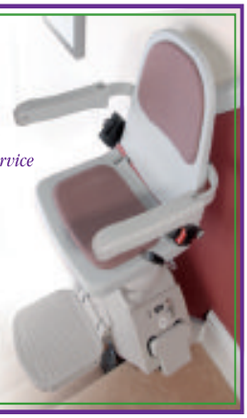

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Burglar's bagged by brave builders

'Swift and brave': Builders Steve Evans and Ben Knight, who caught burglar Lee Wright

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

TWO 'swift and brave' builders who sprang into action to catch a burglar have been nominated for police commendations.

Steve Evans, 32, and Ben Knight, 35, were at work on a home in Woodley Headland, Peartree Bridge, on January 18 when they heard anxious calls from a woman who had just been burgled.

They dropped their tools and gave chase, managing to catch the offender - 44-year-old Lee Wright of Garraways, Coffee Hall - before he could make his getaway. They then held on to him until police arrived.

Steve said: "He wasn't going to get away from me, I was determined to keep running and running.

"We chased him for at least 500 metres into Netherfield and he didn't put up a struggle because he seemed totally out of it afterwards."

Wright was sentenced to 40 months in jail at Aylesbury Crown Court on Friday, February 10, after pleading guilty to burglary.

He was caught red handed after being disturbed by the 31-year-old homeowner and had tried to make off with a number of items before being caught by Steve and Ben.

PC Barry Jones, investigating, said: "Wright was caught thanks to the swift and brave actions of the two builders.

"We rely on help from the public in solving and preventing crime and the example these two men set is invaluable. As a result of what they have done I have nominated them both for a police commendation."

Members of the public, officers and police staff are awarded in the annual commendation ceremony, in which Thames Valley Police recognises those who go the extra mile to protect the Milton Keynes community from crime.

Ben said that instinct and adrenaline took over and they didn't think about what might happen to them.

He added: "To hear he got a good sentence makes you feel much better, that you've done your bit."

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Clockwise from below: Children race as all 22 runners set off in the main event. A team from Food Bank flip out and hungry onlookers are fed

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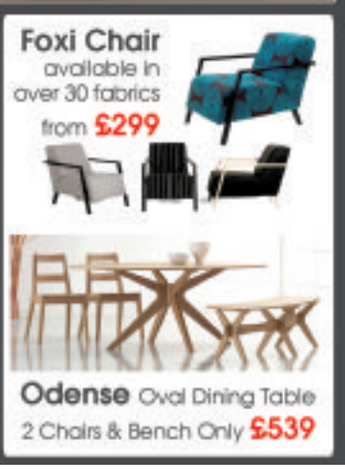

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Fun frying pan frolics

Out of the frying pan: Celebrity chef Lesley Waters

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A RECORD crowd filled the streets of Olney yesterday to take part in the town's annual Shrove Tuesday festivities.

Tracing its roots back to 1445, this year 22 runners took part in the 415-yard, women-only pancake race, as more than 1,000 people cheered them on.

Earlier in the day, children from all three town schools took part in races of their own.

And this year saw the first ever '100 Pancake Dash' as celebrity chef Lesley Waters, from programmes such as Ready, Steady, Cook, took on James Lomax, chef of The Bull pub, to see who could flip 100 pancakes the fastest.

She said: "This day is really great fun.

"With everything that's going on in the world today, there's just something so fantastic about it - it's lovely."

As MK NEWS went to press, Olney residents were waiting to find out if they had won the international competition.

Since 1950 Olney and Liberal in Kansas, USA, have been holding parallel races, with the overall winner getting trans-Atlantic bragging rights. There was hope that winner Devon Byrne's record time of 58.5 seconds would retake the title.

■ For more pictures and online photo sales, visit www.mk-news.co.uk.

On the run: One of the children's races

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Fears over changes to car park spaces

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

BUSINESSES fear they will lose customers after a public car park was sold off to private owners.

Last Friday notices were put up in a car park in Romar Court, Bletchley, explaining that it was privately owned by MK One and the public could park in 15 allocated parking spaces for two hours with no return for 24 hours.

Since then Steve's Autos have had two customers call to say they could not find anywhere to park so would have to leave.

Owner Steve Shirley said: "Before we would book in as many people as we could see in a day but now we have to do it on the amount of car parking space we have.

"The thing is the car park is always empty."

Parking restrictions affect six businesses on the plot and it is feared that they could go out of business if the issues are not resolved.

AJay Mattu, owner of AJ Autos, said: "We can only get two or three cars parked here now and that's not enough to sustain a business.

"We park cars for two hours and then switch them around."

Empty: Businesses fear the worst after car park was sold

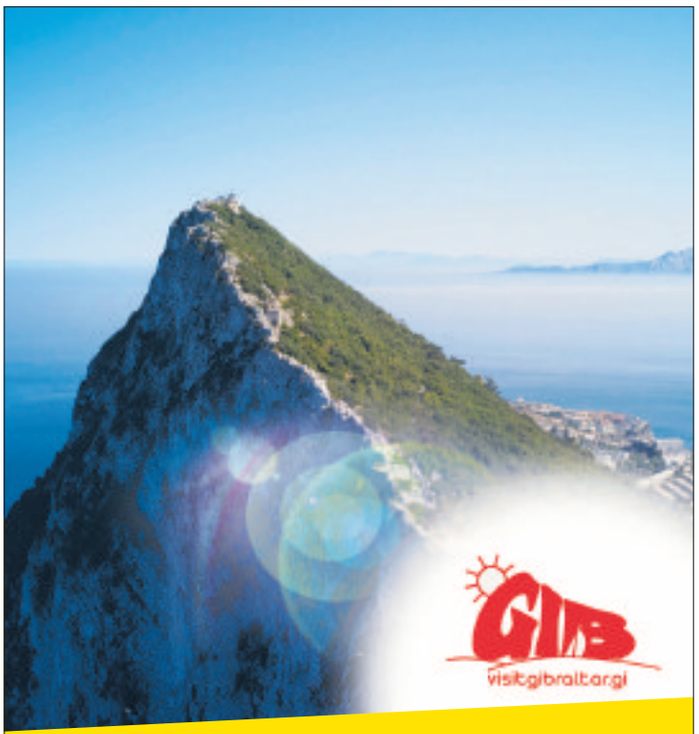
David Bone, owner of Woodstock Joinery, has owned a plot on the land for 28 years and he said the car park has always been communal.

He said: "I feel that what they've done is steal it from under our feet with no consultation."

MP Iain Stewart has written to David Hill, chief executive officer of Milton Keynes Council, but the businesses are still waiting for a response.

Carmel Muscat, owner of CJ Muscat Properties which now owns the car park, said: "We don't want to be bullish; the council told us that they would only sell the car park to us if we made 15 spaces available to the public and that is what we've done.

"The reason we've put the two-hour policy in place is because previously spaces were being taken up for weeks by wrecks of cars with no engines."



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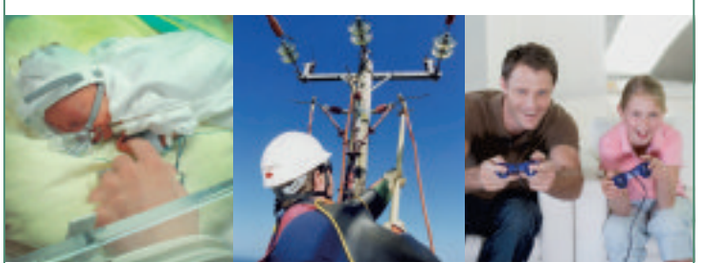
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Calls for housing scheme revision

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

THIS was the scene outside Milton Keynes Council's offices last night as a group against a proposed 300-home development made their feelings known.

The group, which calls itself ReviseSR4, took to the streets as councillors were arriving for the evening's full council meeting.

The members were hoping to raise the profile of the group, which is hoping to get the proposed 329-home Church Farm development next to Old Farm Park moved elsewhere.

Pete Burrett, communications officer for the group, said: "We know we probably can't stop the development altogether, so we want to get it moved elsewhere.

"But should it be built there, we want to ensure the facilities and amenities we get are adequate and make sure any noise pollution from the H10 extension is skillfully managed."

As reported by MK NEWS, residents on the estate are concerned by the council's plans for the development and have since founded ReviseSR4.

They are mainly worried about adequate school, health and retail provision for the area.

The council has just finished a six-week informal consultation with residents to begin forming a Development Framework, setting down what should be built on the site. No application has yet been received.

A spokesman added: "We are looking at all comments received and will be considering them as to whether to make any amendments to the draft Development Framework.

"We will then consult formally from mid April to the end of May this year, after which we will review the document again before adopting it as a Supplementary Planning Document.

"So the process is far from over and local people will have another chance to make their views known."

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A Team: Dance troop leap into Got To Dance final

Hip-hop crew dance victory

SUPER crew A Team stormed their way into the Final of Sky1's Got To Dance this Sunday with a mesmerising performance.

The newly-formed hip-hop dance troop was put together especially for the competition by Mark Calape, aka Swarf, from Bletchley.

He said: "It's hard to be remembered for the next 20 odd years and to be a source of inspiration for generations to come."

A referendum call for hospital plans

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

REMOVING core services from Milton Keynes Hospital should be subject to a people's referendum, according to a councillor

Concerns have been raised that public involvement is coming too late in the decision-making process.

The Acute Services Review (ACR) was set up to evaluate what services should be provided at five district hospitals, including Milton Keynes, but it was criticised for working in secret.

Now named the Healthier Together Programme, it recently launched the engagement phase to increase interaction with the public.

However, Councillor Nigel Long said: "The programme needs to be much more open, this is too little too late and I don't trust them."

The programme aims to look at how the hospitals can work together.

Steve Lowden, chairman of the Patient and Public Advisory Group, said: "The Healthier Together Programme is committed to making sure members of the public and health service users have a real say in this process."

Over the coming weeks there are a series of events to raise awareness about the programme, but currently none are scheduled in Milton Keynes.

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Thank you for recycling batteries!

Milton Keynes Council's innovative battery recycling scheme, launched six months ago as part of our weekly refuse and recycling collection service, has proved to be a great success. Local residents have welcomed the scheme as on average we are sending a tonne of used batteries for recycling every month, making us one of the country's best areas for battery recycling!

Milton Keynes is one of only 16 local authorities recycling batteries in partnership with Valpak, a leading recycling solutions company, which takes the batteries we collect to be recycled by companies in the UK and Europe for extraction of chemicals and metal recycling. Of those 16 authorities, we are one of the leading suppliers of batteries for recycling - in January we managed an incredible 1.5 tonnes!

Valpak supplies the council-branded yellow bags, made from recycled materials, and also the bulk containers fitted in the food and garden waste vehicles for safe collection of the batteries.

Keep your yellow bag handy and place used batteries in it. When you have several – at least ten – seal the bag using the adhesive strip and place it on top of your green food and garden waste wheeled bin. Every time you put out a filled battery bag for collection, the collection crew will leave a replacement bag for you tucked under the lid of your green bin.

If you use a small 23 litre food and garden waste bin, you can leave the yellow battery bag on top of this for collection. If you don't have a green bin, why not ask a neighbour if you could put your yellow bag on their green bin? Or you can take batteries to be recycled at almost any retail store which sells them as battery retailers are now obliged by law to offer battery recycling.

All portable household batteries are accepted, including rechargeable or non-rechargeable, sizes AA, AAA, C and D, 9 volt, button and any laptop or mobile phone batteries. Power tool batteries can be accepted as long as they are small enough to fit inside the battery bag. Car batteries and lead-acid batteries cannot be accepted - please take these to one of our three Community Recycling Centres.

In the UK we throw away over 600 million batteries every year. While we recycle over 90 per cent of our lead-acid batteries used in vehicles, we only recycle 4 per cent of household batteries. This means that of about 25,000 tonnes of waste household and industrial batteries generated in the UK each year, just 1,000 tonnes is recycled.

Most batteries contain heavy metals, which are the main cause for environmental concern. When disposed of incorrectly, these heavy metals can leak into the ground when the battery casing corrodes and this can contribute to soil and water pollution, endangering human health and wildlife.

Andy Hudson, the council's Head of Environment and Waste, said: "We'd like to thank the residents of Milton Keynes for embracing our battery recycling scheme so enthusiastically. A tonne of batteries each month is a substantial amount and by removing these potentially harmful batteries from landfill we are saving money and helping our environment."

A spokesman from Valpak added: "Valpak would like to thank the residents of Milton Keynes for their efforts in helping the UK to recycle more batteries. We have challenging EU battery recycling targets to meet, which increase each year, and we can only achieve these targets if people get behind local battery recycling schemes. The residents of Milton Keynes have proved that they are more than willing to recycle their batteries and their support enables us to recycle and reuse the materials found in all collected batteries."

We now supply yellow battery bags at local libraries and council offices. Alternatively you can contact our Environmental Services Contact Centre on 01908 252570, email: recycling@milton-keynes.gov.uk or fill in an online form at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recycling.

Start recycling used batteries in your yellow bag now!

Batteries join our weekly recycling collections.

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recycling

Milton Keynes Council has added batteries to our weekly recycling scheme. Seal used batteries in the yellow bag and place it on top of your green food and garden waste bin for collection and we'll leave a replacement bag tucked under the lid.

For further information, see our website or call the Environmental Services Contact Centre on 01908 252570.

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MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

Winning couple get to taste their menu

BY ANNA MAUREMOOTOO
anna.mauremootoo@mk-news.co.uk

WEDDINGS are notoriously stressful occasions to organise but thanks to MK NEWS much of the burden has been lifted off one lucky couple.

A dream day is now a reality for Mark Basson and Sophie Smyth, of Deanshanger, after they won our fantastic £20,000 wedding competition.

Plans for the big day are now well underway and the bride-to-be is the picture of calm thanks to the help from MK NEWS.

Miss Smyth said: "Winning this competition means that we can have things that otherwise we wouldn't have been able to afford.

"We'd already put money aside for the wedding so now we can use that for any additional things we'd like to add like decorating the room."

The couple's fairytale wedding will be held at the picturesque Horwood House in May and they recently went along to the venue to test out their menu.

They decided on the specially requested sausage and mash for their main course but have yet to decide on their starter and dessert.

Miss Smyth said: "All the food is really delicious."

Happy couple: Sophie and Mark try their wedding breakfast

And with a hog roast buffet provided by Flamed Foods Co in the evening, guests will not be leaving feeling hungry.

The prize also includes a honeymoon in Mauritius from Kuoni, bridal and men's wear, a gift list service from John Lewis including £200 worth of vouchers, a wedding cake, flowers, a photographer and treatment from Lasaderm.

And the mother of the bride will be looking her best with John Lewis providing a fashion advisor to help her pick her £500 outfit.

Mr Basson said: "Having the financial side sorted has taken a lot of the stress out of it all."

Keep up-to-date with all the wedding preparations with MK NEWS.

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Presentation: Simon Phillips from SAI Logistics, which doubled the amount raised by the event, with Allison Waterhouse from Willen Hospice and darts players Gary Osborne and Peter Hares, who are waiting to find out if they beat the world record in memory of Paolo Sicorello, whose picture they are holding

Darts duo manage a marathon match

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

TWO darts players are eagerly waiting to find out whether they are world record holders after completing a 39-hour game.

Peter Hares, 42, and Gary Osborne, 48, each walked 19.4 miles between the oche and the board while playing their game at the Nag's head in Great Linford on January 7 and 8. They threw a grand total of 33,160 darts to score a total of 536,811 points, hitting nine 180s and 76 140s between them.

The average score for each dart was just over 16 points.

The huge feat was performed in memory of their friend and darts teammate Paolo Sicorello, who died after falling into the Grand Union Canal last year. They raised £2,503 for Willen Hospice which they presented recently.

Peter said: "I would do it again. Gary said we should go for a 48-hour one next summer, despite dislocating his shoulder twice over the weekend."

The pair are now awaiting the official adjudication from the Guinness Book of World Records.

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Money matters: Lorna Hunt, head of governance risk and reporting at Santander, and Lauren Ellaway, tutor at MK Snap, with students Matthew and Patricia

Cash bonanza for a finance scheme

A PERSONAL finance project for people with learning and physical disabilities can now be launched after one charity snapped up £10,000.

MK Snap, based in Bourton Low, Walnut Tree, provides work preparation and life skills training to people with learning and physical disabilities from the city.

It offers a range of activities and learning, all aimed at progressing its clients towards greater independence in their everyday lives.

Now a new finance project, which will have a tutor giving guidance to people looking for help managing their money, has been made possible thanks to the big donation from the Santander Foundation.

Lauren Ellaway, tutor at MK Snap, said: "Even young people of normal ability enter adulthood ill-equipped to deal with their personal finances. This risk is magnified among the vulnerable and those with learning difficulties.

"The very generous grant received from the Santander Foundation will enable us to teach our students how to use their own money and manage their finances, which will help increase their confidence and independence."

The new project will provide about 100 young adults with the tools, knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their personal finances, without fear of prejudice due to their disabilities.

Lorna Hunt, head of governance risk and reporting at Santander, which is based in Milton Keynes, said: "The need for sound knowledge and advice on how to manage personal finances in the current climate is essential.

"We are delighted to have been able to support this very timely project and hope that all of MK Snap's clients will find it of benefit."

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Weather to blame as centre delayed

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

THE poor weather has been blamed after the opening of a new medical facility was pushed back by more than a month.

Stantonbury Health Centre was due to move its operations into a new and improved facility at Oakridge Park on Monday, but health bosses have now said that the opening date will be April 16.

Patients had already started booking appointments at Oakridge, which will now need to be rearranged.

A spokesman for NHS Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire said that the delay had been caused by 'the recent bad weather' which has 'hampered the construction of the new medical centre'.

And Gaynor Young, practice manager at Stantonbury, admitted that the hold-up was regretful.

She said: "We apologise to all our patients who are affected by this delay.

"We are in the process of writing to patients who had already booked appointments in the new medical centre.

"We are very disappointed that the facility will not be ready on time. We will keep the patients informed of any further developments and provide them with more information nearer to our new move date in April."

Oakridge Park, near New Bradwell, has been described as 'a fabulous, completely new surgery' which will be custom built to staff's requirements.

It is just a short distance away from the existing centre, on The Purbeck in Stantonbury, and bus services and footpaths are being improved to serve the new site.

Delayed: Work is still going on at the new Stantonbury Health Centre

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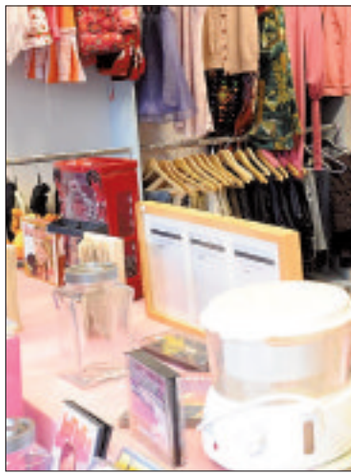
Church's community

HAVING only been in Milton Keynes for seven years, and at their city centre headquarters for two, the Jesus Celebration Centre church is making big moves to help the area's more disadvantaged and has even bigger plans in the pipeline. Reporter ADAM GRINSELL caught up with its members.



FORMING a band of the city's homeless to release a CD – all inspired by UB40.

At first I was sceptical, but speaking to the Rev Augustino Lyimo and other members of his team at the church, you can feel the passion they have for helping out those who are less fortunate.

To give you an idea of their ambition, church members felt they needed to move out of their former premises in Coffee Hall in 2009 as they couldn't achieve all they wanted in that building.

Now in a larger, more practical location in Lloyds Court in CMK, the church is gearing up for what promises to be a big year.

"Our vision is 'in partnership with God to build the kingdom'," the Rev Lyimo said. "It sounds spiritual, but it's also about the community – we are doing on earth what God wants done.

"Building the kingdom means helping people's lives mentally, spiritually and emotionally – that could be creating jobs, counselling, developing talents, worshipping together and caring for one another."

The band idea, inspired by Birmingham reggae group UB40, is just one aspect to the work they have planned, as the Rev Lyimo explained.

"We've got a new project called 'cry of the homeless'. We will have a day centre, a place they can come five days a week instead of hanging around doing nothing.

"They can receive medical attention and their gifts and talents will be developed with arts and music and other things.

"Our target is to see if we can form a band with them, release a CD and make money from their music."

Already the church has been involved in helping out the city's homeless – as reported by MK NEWS, it has been a shelter one night a week over the winter for those needing a place to stay.

Twice a week it plays host to The Foodbank charity, giving out food parcels to those who really need them.

But now members are going further by offering services and support themselves. This week an on-site charity shop, which will make money to aid their work in the community, opened.

One member of the church, Chris Wren, is planning to draw on his past experiences and skills to set up workshops and courses to teach the unemployed trades such as bricklaying, carpentry and tiling, with the ultimate aim of getting them back into work.

And as well as the practical skills course, he said they aim to form their own 'home maintenance division' to help elderly residents carry out otherwise costly repairs.

Chris said: "We hope to have both the training and maintenance division up and running by the first week in March. We have the premises and the trainees will be taught by a qualified tutor.

spirit strikes a chord

Passionate: The Rev Augustino Lyimo from the Jesus Celebration Centre

Left: Mary Mwangi at work in the church's new shop

"The duration of the course will depend on how many subjects the trainees wish to take.

"The cost of the course has been set to a minimum and all materials and tools will be provided, although we are still looking for any tools that can be thankfully donated and will be much appreciated."

Anyone interested in either of these projects can call Chris on 07762 497831, or 01908 411075, or e-mail c.wren377@btinternet.com.

The church is also looking for donations of tools and musical instruments – call 01908 411075 if you can help.

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Elsie urges young to follow job lead

WITH figures released last week showing youth unemployment in the city remains higher than the regional average, young people are being encouraged to explore other options.

Former Stantonbury sixth form student Elsie Bryant, 23, has just returned from three months volunteering on a development project in Africa and she believes other young people can improve their employability by doing the same.

She said: "My experience developed my confidence and reaffirmed that international development is what I want to do as a career – it also showed me I've got the skills to achieve that."

Nationally, unemployment is now at its highest rate since 1995 and in Milton Keynes 18-24 year-olds are being hit the hardest with more than 15,000 signing on for Job Seekers Allowance in January, up from 1,230 last year.

Latest figures show that long-term youth unemployment has more than doubled in the last year, up from 150 people to 360.

But 18 to 22-year-olds have the chance to turn this around with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Malawi or Zimbabwe and work with those living with HIV with international youth and development charity, Progressio.

Friend for life: Elsie Bryant made a real difference to communities

Volunteers will help some of the world's poorest people and learn invaluable life skills such as teamwork, management and languages. Miss Bryant, from Wolverton, said: "It was a challenge but incredibly rewarding. The people we were working with were truly inspiring and really made a difference."

To apply visit www.progressio.org.uk/empower.

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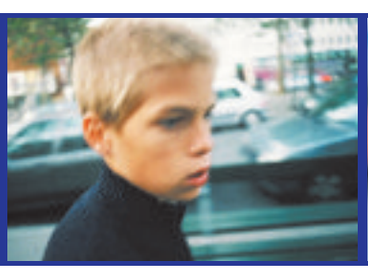

Sock it to 'em for charity

Louie Spence is supporting the Sport Relief sock sliding challenge

HAVE you got socks appeal?

Find out on Friday if you and your Sports Relief socks can make it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

To raise awareness and funds for this year's Sport Relief, supported by MK NEWS, Sainsbury's is challenging you to set a new world record – the longest distance for a sock slide.

Inspired by the scene from Risky Business with Tom Cruise, the Sainsbury's store in Witan Gate, CMK, is challenging customers to master the art of sock sliding from 10am on Friday.

The competition has been launched by Dancing on Ice judge and Pineapple Dance Studios star Louie Spence, who was last week announced as the star of Milton Keynes Theatre's panto Cinderella this Christmas.

Louie said: "Pull on a fabulous pair of Sport Relief socks and not only will you be supporting a great cause and raising money for Sport Relief, you can slide your way to the title of Sock Sliding Champion."

The longest slider from Milton Keynes will win a £100 gift card to spend in store or online at www.sainsburys.co.uk Everyone who takes part will be entered into a draw to win a £500 gift card.

The challenge is open to anyone who buys a pair of Sport Relief socks, exclusively available at Sainsbury's and www.sportrelief.com.

For more information on taking part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile on March 25 go to www.sainsburys-live-well-for-less.co.uk/occasions/sport-relief.

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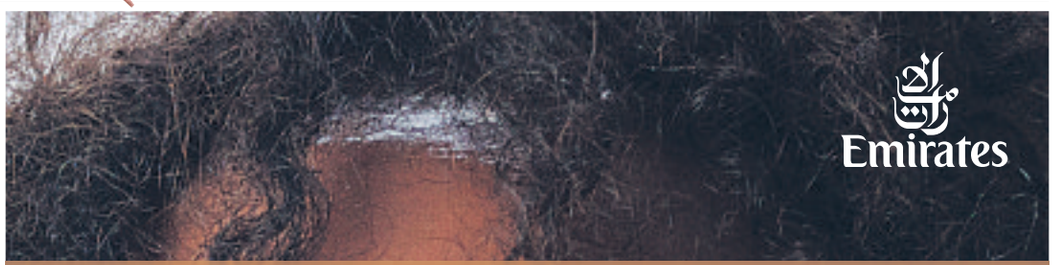

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Brothers clean up for charity

TWO brothers are putting their running shoes on and preparing for some sibling rivalry.

Both Rob and Lee McKane have decided to run marathons and the race is on to see who can get round the quickest.

But any competitive edge will be put to one side as both are running for good causes.

Rob, 34, is running the London Marathon for the Blue Cross and brother Lee, 31, will be taking on 26 miles in Brighton for the Peace Hospice.

Both are being supported by employers Nationwide Cleaning Supplies, based in Granby, and Cleaning Support Europe.

Love for city's parks

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

IT'S official – people in Milton Keynes love their parks.

Of course it is no secret that city folk adore their greenery but now statistics have been released which prove it.

A survey completed by nearly 900 people showed that 94 per cent think city parks are well maintained, that nine out of ten people value their parks and that 60 per cent are able to name an 'inspirational' park.

Willen Lake North was found to be the city's favourite park, followed by Willen Lake South, Campbell Park, Furzton Lake and Caldecotte Lake.

Fifty-six per cent of people said that they visit a park at least once a week and three out of ten said that they had enjoyed a 'special moment' in a park, such as a birthday or a date.

The findings have been presented by Stony Stratford-based company Start Up Research and the results have gone down well with the city's Park's Trust.

Chief executive David Foster said: "The trust is celebrating 20 years of caring for the parks so it's really encouraging to know that people value them and think they are well looked after.

"We invest almost £5million a year in them and this is all funded through our commercial property and investment making the parks completely free for residents and visitors to use."

The survey also revealed that the parks could be improved with more dog and litter bins, toilets, maps and signs.

"It's very helpful to see people's suggestions and some of them are already being addressed," Mr Foster said.

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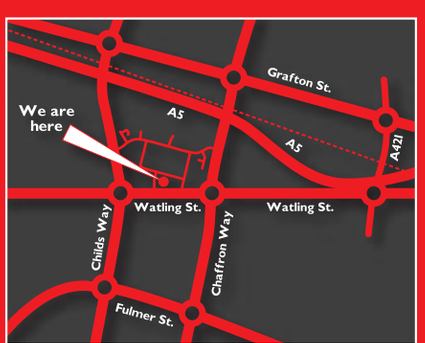

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T&K SolarPV
Your Local Solar PV Experts

STOP PRESS:
T&K Solar have only 10 installation slots remaining to beat 3 March 2012 deadline. This is your last opportunity to take advantage of the higher rate Government guaranteed tax free payments.

1. You may be aware that the Government guaranteed payments, the Feed-In Tariff, were recently reduced from £0.43 to £0.21 for each unit of electricity your Solar PV System actually produces.

2. This Tariff reduction has been challenged in the High Court and the cut was considered unlawful.

3. As a result, any homeowner who has a Solar PV System installed by 3 March 2012 may still qualify for the higher guaranteed rate, which is tax free, indexed linked and guaranteed by the Government for the next 25 years.

4. What this means is that you can still take advantage of a potential (subject to the Supreme Court appeal) and one-off 17% Return On Investment, while benefitting from a payback on your original investment of less than 5 years.

5. On a typical 4 kW, 16- panel system, for an investment of £10,375, your annual income would be £1,772, and the earnings you would receive over the 25 year period would be a staggering £60,696.

But you do need to act quickly.
To have an opportunity of making these substantial and safe returns, you need to commit to a T&K Solar PV System no later than 5pm on Monday 27 February 2012, so we can install and commission your System before the 3 March deadline.
AND THERE ARE ONLY 10 INSTALLATION SLOTS REMAINING

In addition, from 1 April 2012, the Government are making it mandatory for all homes to have an Energy Rating Assessment of C or above, and most homes do not reach this level. As a result you may need to carry out other costly home

improvements before you will be eligible to apply for the Feed-In Tariff.

YOU NEED TO ACT BEFORE 5PM ON MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2012

You can save up to 18% of your electricity bill, and further increase your Return On Investment, by ordering a Voltis Home Unit with your T&K Solar PV System, available at a half-price fully installed cost of only £400, (subject to site survey).

So please act as quickly as possible. Call T&K Solar on 0800 285 1992 for an immediate free no-obligation Assessment and Return On Investment Calculation. Opportunities like this tend to happen only once in a lifetime.

First Come, First Served
Only 10 SOLAR PANEL Installation Slots Left Before 3 March

SO YOU MUST ACT QUICKLY:

You Need To Order By 5pm On Monday 27 Feb To Reserve Your Installation Slot To Ensure Your Solar Panel System Is Installed By 3 March Deadline

APPROVED INSTALLER

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The Government Guaranteed Payments May Reduce From 3 March

So Is This Your Last Chance To Guarantee A 17% Return On Investment?

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This Is How It Works...

4 kW T&K System Installed - from £10,375 inc VAT

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+ **Annual Export** (Tariff earnings)	=	£53.20	(Income saving and export Tariff)
= **Annual Total** (Earnings TAX FREE)	=	£1,772.12	(Export Tariff + savings + Feed-In Tariff received for 25 year period)
Lifetime Total (Including initial investment Inflation Assumptions apply)	=	£60,696 TAX FREE	

Payback In Only 5 years!!

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Your Local Solar PV Experts

SO YOU MUST ACT QUICKLY:

You Need To Order By 5pm On Monday 27 Feb To Reserve Your Installation Slot And Ensure Your Solar Panel System Is Installed By 3 March Deadline And Give You The Chance To Earn Over £60,000 Tax Free

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André Rieu & The Johann Strauss Orchestra

In concert on the Vrijthof Square, Maastricht

Departs 23 June 2012

Join André Rieu & The Johann Strauss Orchestra in a spectacular concert in his hometown of Maastricht in The Netherlands. You will also visit Bruges en route home.

Includes • Return travel by coach & Channel crossing between your selected pick-up point & the Netherlands/Belgium • 2 nights' B&B at a good quality hotel within coaching distance of Maastricht • A seated ticket for your André Rieu & The Johann Strauss Orchestra concert on The Vrijthof Square, Maastricht (ticket upgrades available for a supplement) • Return coach transfers between your hotel & the concert venue • A visit to Bruges • A Tour Manager

Single supplement applies

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The Royal Edinburgh Tattoo

Unforgettable pomp & pageantry!

Departs 3 & 17 August 2012

Take your seat on the ancient esplanade of Edinburgh Castle and experience this unforgettable and totally magical spectacle, which ends with the lone piper atop the battlements above the castle!

Includes • Return coach travel from the local area • Two nights' bed and English breakfast accommodation in a hotel in the Teesside area • A seat for the Edinburgh Tattoo • Visits to York and Harrogate • A drive through the Yorkshire Dales • The services of a Tour Manager

Single supplement applies

3 days from £179.95

Floriade 2012

A feast of floral delights

Departs 25 May, 27 Jul & 7 Sep 2012

Held every ten years, Holland's Floriade Exhibition, taking place in Dutch town of Venlo in 2012, is one of the world's most amazing horticultural events. See floral displays from across the globe, marvelling at the kaleidoscope of colour, and enjoy a full programme of entertainment - it's an unforgettable experience! All this, plus an optional excursion to the wonderful Het Loo Palace and Gardens, together with included visit to the beautiful city of Bruges, makes this a weekend not to be missed!

Includes • Coach travel throughout • Return Channel crossings via ferry/Eurotunnel • Three nights' B&B in a three-star hotel within coaching distance of the Floriade exhibition • A visit to Bruges • The services of a Tour Manager

Single supplement applies

4 days from £229.00

The Rhine in Flames

Wonderful value River Cruise holiday

On board MS Olympia - Departs 3 July 2012

MS Olympia's unforgettable summertime cruise takes in majestic Cologne, fun-loving Rüdesheim and the fabled, picture-book Rhine Gorge, and culminates in an illuminated procession and spectacular firework display over the river.

Includes • Return coach travel and Channel crossings • Seven nights' full board accommodation in a standard twin-berth lower-deck cabin (up-grade cabins available for a supplement) • Scenic Rhine cruise and illuminated river firework spectacular • Seven delightful ports of call • Evening entertainment • The services of an on-board Tour Manager

8 days from £769.00

Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot

Departs 20 June 2012

High fashion and high stakes at the most stylish date of the racing calendar, Royal Ascot. See the Royal Procession and witness the best of flat racing battling it out for the £3 million prize funds. Join us as The Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee at this historic event, the highlight being The Gold Cup and enjoy the atmosphere of Britain's most popular race meeting.

Includes • Return coach travel • One night's bed and continental breakfast at a good three-star hotel in the London area • Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot with admission to the Silver Ring Enclosure(General Admission upgrade available at a supplement) • Visit to Central London • A Tour Manager

Single supplement applies

2 days from £119.95

Romantic Rhine Cruise to Switzerland

Departs 10 Jul, 8 Aug & 16 Sep 2012

Join beautifully appointed Olympia as she cruises through the classic 'Middle-Rhine', the breathtaking Rhine Gorge and the prettiest corners of France, Germany and Switzerland will be revealed.

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Longleat

Fantastic drive through safari park!

Departs Jun, Aug & Sep 2012

Enjoy some close encounters with giraffes, zebras, monkeys and lions from the comfort of the coach!

Includes • Return coach travel • One nights' dinner, bed & English breakfast at a comfortable hotel in the Swindon area • Entrance to Longleat Safari Park • A visit to Bath • The services of a Tour Manager

Single supplement applies

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Glorious Paris in the Summertime

Departs 8 August 2012

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Departs Mar, May, Jun & Sep 2012

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- ☐ Paris in the Summertime – PIT
- ☐ Rhine in Flames River Cruise – XHN
- ☐ Romantic Rhine Cruise to Switzerland – XQS
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MK LIFE

YOUR GUIDE TO LEISURE IN YOUR CITY

YolanDa's unique voice is showcased at The Stables – see inside

INSIDE

Get your card marked to see Helen Arney at comedy club **Page 41**

PLUS

Milton Keynes Chorale set to perform two requiems **page 38**

Mouthwatering recipes on the menu with cook book **page 39**

Chance to win family tickets to LEGOLAND **page 40**

Find out what's on and when with Daily Life **page 41**

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**

Lifestyle: Interiors and Exteriors Show
Thursday 23 - Sunday 26 February

An event for houseproud homeowners who want to update and improve without breaking the bank. With handmade furniture, soft furnishings, state of the art kitchens and bathrooms, and more, it's definitely the show not to miss!

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Saturday 25th February 8pm
Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Duruflé Requiem
Fauré Requiem
accompanied by
Robert Patterson: organ
Esther Brazil: mezzo-soprano
Rupert Reid: baritone
conductor: Tom Appleton
Tickets: £15, £12
under 16s only £1
Chorale Ticket Sales 01908 617697
in person: Church of Christ the Cornerstone
on-line: www.mkchorale.org.uk
Milton Keynes Chorale is a Registered Charity no 268507

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MKLIFE | MUSIC REVIEW | THE STABLES | THE BUSZY | MK CHORALE

SIMON DARNELL

GEMMA RAY SINGS SPARKS WITH SPARKS

Gemma Ray and Sparks (EP)

THIS is supposed to be straightforward, you know. Somebody does a song, somebody else covers it, that's it, job done, everybody goes home happy.

Thing is though, nothing's straightforward when Sparks are involved.

A few years back they invited loads of bands to cover their songs with them, so for example This Town Ain't Big Enough For Both Of Us was performed by Faith No More in collaboration with Sparks.

So here's the story this time; Sparks originally performed the songs on this two-track single, Gemma Ray's covered them and Sparks have come back and reinterpreted her re-interpretation of their own songs and...my head hurts.

The two songs in question are How Do I Get To Carnegie Hall? and Eaten By The Monster Of Love, and although both are well worthy of attention, the first song is simply breathtaking.

I'd even go as far as to say it's better than the original. It's not often you hear a song that's actually driven (and I do mean driven) by a piano, but that's what happens here – the piano goes twenty to the dozen and practically dares any other instruments to join in.

Aside from the vocals and the piano, there's little else; a few strings here and there but hardly any percussion, and they're neither missed nor needed.

This is utterly superb and really should be a huge hit.

BLACK WHITE AND BLUE

Ladyhawke

BLIMEY, there's all sorts going on here. Blippy noises, guitars, drums; it sounds like pretty much anything the band could get their hands on that made a sound of some kind was either used or seriously considered.

Talk about overcompensating for the lack of instruments on the Gemma Ray single.

This is a pop song with loads of rough edges and the happy-clappy feel-good side of things dumped firmly in the background. It's not a depressing song by any means, in fact I rather like it, but if your usual musical delights are served up by One Direction et al, this may come as something of an eye-opener.

For one thing, the singer doesn't sound like she's under orders to act cheerful, so she doesn't.

Great stuff.

THE STABLES 01908 280800

YOLANDA BROWN

Thursday, 8pm

DOUBLE MOBO award-winning saxophonist and singer YolanDa Brown is set to blow you away at The Stables tomorrow evening as she tours with tracks from her debut album.

YolanDa is a one-off, very much a woman of her time. As much entrepreneur as she is musician, as much gifted singer-songwriter as she is the UK's premier saxophonist.

After several years on the world's jazz circuits, she has just released her debut album, April Showers, May Flowers, which will surely bring her cult reputation to the fore.

April Showers, May Flowers is a beautifully sculpted record that touches lightly on jazz, soul and R&B, each track bestowed with the kind of lyrical insight – on love, on life – that suggests its author is something of a poet too.

It is an album of effortless unfurling grace and impeccable soulful poise, featuring eight saxophone tracks and two vocal ones (Bitter Sweet and Without You) on which YolanDa showcases her beautiful voice.

Tickets £16.50. For full Stables listings visit www.stables.org.

THE BUSZY

HIP HOP & FUNK

Friday, 8pm

THE best in UK hip hop and funk is set to do battle at The Old Bus station in CMK, thanks to Helen Parlor at Arts Gateway.

Helen has been working alongside The Buszy to organise the B-boys & B-girls event on Friday.

The evening will be hosted by the founders of 'Off the Wall' and 'Xscapeology' and B-boy's Attic will headline the event with their resident DJ and breakers, with crews and individuals welcome to come along and fight it out.

"The B-boys B-girls event is the perfect opportunity for Milton Keynes to take music and dance into the wider community and promote collaboration among artists," said Helen. "Engaging people in the arts is a key aim."

Other artists include MDK (Mad Dope Kru) and DJ JamFu.

Tickets cost £3 from www.the buszy.com.

MK CHORALE

MILTON KEYNES CHORALE, TWO REQUIEMS

Church of Christ the Cornerstone, CMK

Friday, 8pm

IF YOU think that two requiems in one evening sounds a bit morbid then you're wrong, according to MK Chorale conductor Tom Appleton.

"Being asked to write a requiem seemed to bring out the best in composers," he said.

"Also the words of the text can mean something to everyone, they tune in to human emotion like few other pieces.

"Any caring person wants the best for their loved ones and the sentiment at the heart of a requiem setting bypasses the fact that it is voiced through a religious mouthpiece."

The two requiems being performed are Faure Requiem and Durufle Requiem.

Gabriel Faure composed his requiem between 1887 and 1890 and this choral orchestral setting of the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead is the best known of his large works. It is believed that the requiem was written after the death of his father in 1885 and mother two years later.

Tom Appleton

Maurice Durufle's requiem is 20th century work composed in 1947, commissioned by the French music publisher Durand and written in memory of the composer's father.

The organist for the evening is Robert Patterson, former assistant organist at Canterbury Cathedral. Soloists are Esther Brazil, mezzo-soprano, and Rupert Reid, baritone, both regular singers with the Monteverdi Choir.

Tickets cost £15 and £12 (balcony) and £1 for under 16s. They are available from the Christ the Cornerstone Church, or Chorale ticket sales on 01908 617697. They can also be bought on the evening.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

MKLIFE | GALLERY | THEATRE | BOOKS

MK GALLERY

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM

The Spirit of the Beehive, 6.30pm

SELECTED by current exhibitor Daria Martin, Victor Erice's hauntingly beautiful The Spirit of the Beehive features one of the most unforgettable child performances in cinema.

In the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, Ana, a sensitive seven-year-old girl in a rural Spanish hamlet, is traumatised after a travelling projectionist screens James Whale's 1931 Frankenstein for the village.

The youngster is profoundly disturbed by the scenes in which the monster murders the little girl and is later killed by the villagers.

She questions her sister about the profundities of life and death and believes her older sibling when she tells her that the monster is not dead, but exists as a spirit inhabiting a barn.

When a loyalist soldier, a fugitive from Franco's army, hides out in the barn, Ana crosses from reality into a fantasy world.

Tickets £5 (concessions £3), pre-book on 01908 676900.

The Spirit of the Beehive

START THE ART

Tuesday, 11am-noon

IF YOU have a child under four who can't wait to get their hands dirty then this is for you.

The parent and toddler sessions are hosted by friendly artists who will help explore the joys of art through a range of multi-sensory activities, including painting, drawing and mark-making.

To celebrate World Book Day this week you can take along your child's own favourite story book and the reading of these will be shared at the end of the session.

Admission free.

WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY ART?

Wednesday, February 29, 6.30pm

IN THE latest in the series Paul Cureton explorers landscape drawing and contemporary art.

Paul's illustrated talk looks at the relationship between drawing and the picturesque or topographic description of the landscape and the desire to still refer to the related history of the depiction of and attitude to the land in the making of contemporary art.

MK THEATRE 0844 8717652

HORMONAL HOUSEWIVES

GRAB your lippy and your heels for the ultimate gossip as the Hormonal Housewives make their way on to stage.

Following its sell-out tour of Scotland, the show is coming to Milton Keynes to celebrate those body hang-ups all women have.

Written by husband and wife team Julie Coombe and John MacIsaac and starring Margi Clarke, it features a series of sketches examining the inner world of women.

The play follows three hormonal women as they battle against all the joys and pleasures of reaching maturity as a woman – weight loss, weight gain, mood swings, PMS, pelvic floor exercises, stretch marks, the onslaught of HRT, makeovers, waxing, men, chocolate, upper-lip hair, chocolate, chocolate...more chocolate.

Playing up to all of the stereotypes one might expect of a genre that includes the landmark Eve Ensler classic Vagina Monologues and Jenny Eclair's Grumpy Old Women tours, Coombe and MacIsaac's script treads a well-worn path through familiar territory.

Juggling career and childcare while maintaining the role of domestic goddess is no easy feat and the show is a tribute to all those ladies living on the wrong side of 40 and battling with their wayward bodily functions.

Get ready for a night of fun and frolics with the girls.

Margi Clarke

COOKERY BOOK

COOKING WITH LOVE

THE world is full of cookery books and now, with the internet, we have recipes on tap.

But for me, cookery books that become a real part and parcel of the family are few and far between. For our grandparents it was Mrs Beaton – ours is the Bero Cookery Book, circa 1965.

It was therefore a delight to get my teeth into a charity cook book full of tried and tested recipes donated by enthusiasts ranging from everyday cooks to professional chefs.

Cooking With Love is a collection of useable recipes that have been passed down through generations, become family favourites and dinner party signature dishes.

All have been enjoyed and cooked time and again, and most importantly they are tried, tested and work every time.

It has been put together by three friends – Lisa Gordon, Nicola Williams and Maria Lockhart – who organised charity events for years.

The recipes use store cupboard ingredients and uncomplicated methods.

Cooking With Love has been produced to raise funds for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres and The Rainbow Trust Children's Charity. It cost £10 with all proceeds going to the charities, plus £3.95 post. To order, email cook ingwithlove@hotmail.co.uk.

Great recipes, great value and for two great causes.

Michele Lowe

STANTONBURY THEATRE

OKLAHOMA

February 29-March 2, 7.30pm

Wednesday matinee,1.30pm

THE tale of stubborn Laurey's journey to find the man of her dreams and the satisfaction of settling down with the right one underscores the struggle of the territory toward progress, community and statehood.

It tackles the class issues between the farmers and the cowmen as the characters struggle to find hope, love and the fulfillment of 'the American Dream'.

Performed by Stantonbury Campus students, Oklahoma! was the first of many collaborations between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein.

With such classic songs as Oh What a Beautiful Morning and People Will Say We're In Love and many more this is one not to be misssed.

Tickets cost £8, concessions £5.

Order yours now from http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/ticketpurchase.

Alternatively, call the hotline on 01908 324422.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk**

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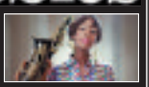
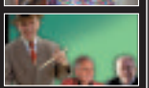
the stables

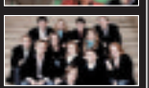
Thursday 23 February, 8pm
YOLANDA BROWN
The double MOBO award-winning jazz saxophonist appears tonight with her full band plus backing vocalists.
Tickets £16.50



Friday 24 February, 8pm
STICKY WICKET & HIS SWING ORCHESTRA
An all-star swing show and drum'n'dance spectacular hosted by John Bly (of Antiques Roadshow fame!).
Tickets £20



Wednesday 29 February, 8pm
STILE ANTICO
This exciting vocal group explore the wealth of Tudor and Jacobean sacred music written for private performance.
Tickets £12.50, £17.50, students £5



Thursday 1 March, 8pm
JUAN MARTIN'S FLAMENCO DANCE ENSEMBLE
One of the world's top flamenco guitarists, Juan Martin returns with his singer and dancers. Spectacular!
Tickets £18.50

Friday 2 March, 8pm
THE MICK RALPHS BLUES BAND
The guitarist from Mott The Hoople and Bad Company takes time out to explore his blues, soul and funk roots.
Tickets £20

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A Tribute to the Black Eyed Peas
Saturday 17th March
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FILM REVIEW

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (12A)

Synopsis: A group of pensioners start a new life in India
Who's in it: Judi Dench, Dev Patel, Bill Nighy

IN THE Best Exotic Marigold Hotel a group of pensioners decide they've had enough of Britain.

Their destination isn't somewhere obvious like France or Spain, as the elderly gang decide to up sticks to India.

Their reasoning for 'outsourcing' their retirement to the subcontinent is that it promises to be less expensive and more exotic.

Right from the outset you get the impression that this is something they haven't thought through.

Lured in by advertisements for the Marigold Hotel they dream of a life of luxury but on arrival things take a turn for the worse.

The hotel is run-down and a fraction of its former glamorous self – it's far from exotic and it's certainly not the best.

Irritatingly enthusiastic businessman Sonny (Dev Patel) is in charge but as with most films you know that the doom and gloom is going to lift.

In the group are some interesting characters including former high court judge Graham (Tom Wilkinson), recently bereaved Evelyn (Judi Dench), the xenophobic Muriel (Maggie Smith) and the charmingly frisky Norman (Ronald Pickup).

Each actor brings out their character's most prevalent trait and it is interesting to see how the Indian experience affects each of them.

Directed by John Madden, known for Shakespeare In Love, he brings out the colour and vibrancy of India.

It's a film with a high feelgood factor and it comes loaded with heart-warming scenes.

If chilling out with a nice story is your thing then this might be right up your street.

7/10

ONE FOR THE MONEY (12A)

Synopsis: Bounty hunting crime thriller
Who's in it: Katherine Heigl, Debbie Reynolds, Jason O'Mara

ANOTHER film based on a book and the book is better.

An out-of-work lingerie saleswoman becoming a bounty hunter sounds exciting.

However, One For The Money comes out painfully dull.

Heroine Stephanie (Katherine Heigl) is supposedly unsuitable for her new job but this angle is forgotten minutes in when she is bounty hunting like a pro.

A lot of things don't make sense and there's a cringeworthy side plot.

3/10

LEGO COMPETITION

NEXT month will see the opening of the LEGO® Star Wars™ Miniland Experience at the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort.

The experience has painstakingly recreated seven of the most famous Star Wars scenes – six from the films and one from the animated series.

Using about 1.5million LEGO bricks and planned in close consultation with Lucasfilm Ltd, it follows a chronological path through the Star Wars timeline and feature around 2,000 LEGO models from the planets Naboo, Geonosis, Kashyyk, Mustafar and more.

Created by dozens of model designers and builders, landscapers, animation electricians and technicians, the area features authentic Star Wars sounds, actions and lighting effects.

To celebrate the opening of this fantastic experience we have teamed up with LEGOLAND to give away five sets of tickets, each containing four tickets which can be used by an adult or child.

Let the force be with you: The Star Wars Miniland Experience will open at LEGOLAND next month

For your chance to win simply answer this question:

Around how many models are in the LEGO Star Wars Miniland Experience? a) 20 b) 200 c)2000.

Send your answer, together with your name, address and contact telephone number, to MK NEWS, 1 Diamond Court, Fox Milne, MK15 0DU, or email competitions@mk-news.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 29. The editor's decision is final. Tickets are valid from March 16 to November 5, 2012.

The LEGO Star Wars Miniland Experience is located in the centre of the resort, which features more than 55 interactive rides, live shows, building workshops, driving schools and attractions all set in 150 acres of parkland.

You could also extend your stay at the new Resort Hotel, which also opens next month and features fully themed bedrooms, pirate themed splash pool and the Bricks Family Restaurant.

Find out more at www.legoland.co.uk. LEGO, the LEGO logo and LEGOLAND are trademarks of the LEGO Group©. 2012 The LEGO Group. All rights reserved.

FEASTIVAL

STONY Stratford is licking its lips for its first Feastival – a fortnight's celebration of food and drink.

There is a banquet of delights on offer and today we serve up the first week's fayre.

WHOLE FESTIVAL EVENTS

February 24-March 4.

COCK and Bull takeaway quiz. Pick up a quiz sheet from Well Past It or York House Centre, £1 a go.

FEASTIVAL Table Centrepieces at Back to the Fuchsia.

A FAIR Feast in Stony Library. Part of the fairtrade fortnight - tea, coffee and snacks.

WINDOW displays on Feastival theme at the Stani Gallery and The Oxfam Shop.

FROG Island Fiesta at The White Horse pub. Stocking beers from Stony's favourite brewery.

FRIDAY

FARMERS' Market, Market Square, 8am-2pm. A fine selection of local organic products.

'GIRLS Night Out – Not A Beer About' at The Bull, 7pm-11.30pm. A girls' evening of cocktails, canapes and danceable salsa beats. Costs £10. Phone 01908 567104 for more information.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

SEVENTH Cock and Bull Beer Festival, York House Centre, noon-11pm both days. About 20 local-ish beers, five ciders and a perry.

SATURDAY

RSPCA Shop Produce Sale, Church Street, 10am-2pm. Homemade cakes, jams, chutneys and pet treats.

ENGLISH and French Food Market, Odell's Courtyard, 9am-3pm. A heady mixture of local and authentic French produce.

TIMOR Court Market, 9am-4pm. The regular great produce market.

SUNDAY

TRADITIONAL afternoon tea, The Bull Hotel, 2.30pm-5pm. A tea like Grandma used to serve. Costs £6, phone 01908 567104 for more.

TUESDAY

CHILLI chill out, The Kardamom Lounge, 7.30pm. A succulent set-meal, with music from Neil Mercer and John Montague. Costs £15, call 01908 567538.

FOOD and drink quiz, Cameron's Brasserie, 7 for 7.30pm. Costs £5 per person (maximum of four people per team). A fun quiz including mystery tastings! Call 01908 568000 for more information.

NICE As Pie, The Cock Hotel. Choose from six steaming pies, add a drink and pay just £7.45. Call 01908 567733 for more details.

SOUTH African wine tasting, Stony Wine Emporium, 7pm. Expert guidance through some delicious wines. Phone 01908 267373 for more.

WEDNESDAY

FAST Before Feast, St Mary and St Giles Church, noon-2pm. A modest lunch of bread, cheese and water in the Christian tradition.

GET Spicy, The Cock Hotel, High Street. A choice of five aromatic curries with rice and a drink for just £7.45. Call 01908 567733.

■ See next Wednesday's paper as the Feastival continues.

DAILY LIFE

TOMORROW

BIG Pub Quiz, Craufurd Arms, Wolverton. Maybe the best and most friendly, banter-filled quiz night in MK, 8pm.

MARQUETRY at West Bletchley Community Centre, Porchester Close. Make beautiful pictures using thin wood veneer, 10am-noon. Contact Ron on 01908 667753.

ART Group at West Bletchley Community Centre, Porchester Close. Friendly meetings for anyone who enjoys painting, 1.30-4pm. Contact Ann on 01908 506699.

FRIDAY

MK MAGNA Club meeting, CMK Library. Between 6 and 7.45pm. Free to attend, just show up.

MEXICAN charity fancy dress night, The Chequers, Fenny Stratford. Starts 7pm, finger buffet, disco and karaoke in aid of Willen Hospice.

YOGA relaxation and stretch at St Michael's Church, OU Campus, 6-7.30pm. For more information call 01908 218915 or e-mail hypnomk@googlemail.com.

WINE tasting, MK Wine School at the Ramada Encore, The Hub. An evening to guide you on how to choose better wine and start your journey of wine discovery. For more details e-mail info@birminghamwineschool.com.

Tell MK NEWS readers about YOUR event

Send details to andy.handley@mk-news.co.uk, or call 01908 689586. Remember to get the details to us at least two weeks before the event and we will publish them, space permitting.

SATURDAY

TABLE top sale, Christ the Vine Community Church, Coffee Hall. Free admission and refreshments available, support the church and find a bargain,10am-noon.

ALL Nations Community Choir auditions, MK Gallery. Recruiting new members for a tour. Can you sing, rap, dance, beat box, snap, clap, sway, whistle or play an instrument? Open to all ages, 4pm. More details from anccmk@hotmail.co.uk.

SUNDAY

IRON Trunk Aqueduct Open Day, Grand Union Canal between Wolveron and Cosgrove. A team is refurbishing the aqueduct for its 200 birthday. Delve into the history and take a guided tour, free children's activities. More details www.waterscape.com.

MK RAMBLERS' eight-mile circular walk via Tyringham, Filgrave and Emberton. Meet in the Market Square car park in Olney (GR SP889513). More details from 01908 564572

LIVE lunchtime music at Woughton Leisure Centre. This week's band are rock and rollers Breathless, free entry, families welcome, 1-4pm.

WEDDING open day, The Sculpture Gallery at The Inn at Woburn. Prospective brides and grooms can view The Sculpture Gallery, The Inn at Woburn and The Safari Lodge at Woburn Safari Park set up for a wedding. For more call 01525 292172.

MONDAY

RACE night at The Barge, Woolstones. The quiz takes a backseat as jockeys take to the saddle. In aid of Dreams Come True. Starts 8pm.

RINGCRAFT Dog Training at West Bletchley Community Centre, Porchester Close, 7.30-9.30pm. Contact Marion on 01525 751698.

TUESDAY

OLNEY'S famous pancake race. Children's races start at 10.30am. Main event 11.45am.

FREE pool table and competition at The Craufurd Arms, Wolverton, from 8pm.

WEDNESDAY

LEAP year entertainment, The Greene Room, Theatre District. In aid of The Stroke Association. Stand-up comedy, live music, burlesque dancers and circus acts. Tickets are £6 and available from www.just-shoot-me.co.uk. Doors open at 7pm.

OPEN Film Society, The Happiest Girl in the World. Delia has won a new car and a chance to appear in a commercial. She and her parents conflict over the prize and the world of television is a shock. A wryly observed humane comedy. Old Lecture Theatre, OU. Showing at 6.15 and 8.45pm. Visit www.openfilmsociety.co.uk.

PUSHCHAIRS in the Park. Outdoor adventures whatever the weather, self-guided walk for parents and toddlers with activities from the Pre-school Learning Alliance. Meet at Artworks car park, Parklands, Great Linford, 10-11.30am, free.

YOGA meditation, chanting and relaxation at Portfields Community Centre, Wordsworth Avenue, Newport Pagnell. 8-9pm. For more information call 01908 218915, or email hypnomk@googlemail.com.

NEWPORT Pagnell Young Farmers Club meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm in Weston Underwood Village Hall. More details from Jess Coltman (chairman) on 07740 859530, or Phillie Reynolds (secretary) on 07523 208003.

RED CARD COMEDY CLUB, STADIUMMK

RED CARD COMEDY CLUB

Stadiummk

Friday, 8pm

FOUR more comedians are preparing to descend on stadiummk to make your sides split in the latest round of the Red Card Comedy Club.

The bill features Andrew Bird, Chris Martin and Helen Arney and compere for the evening is Kevin Precious.

Northamptonshire comic Andrew, *pictured*, has been described as 'an exciting rising star' and a 'natural comedian' and has been praised for his beautifully observed, entertaining stand-up.

Helen is a musical comedian based in London, performing original and unusually funny songs on ukulele or piano.

She's also one third of science comedy phenomenon Festival of the Spoken Nerd, and half of the greatest comedy girl band you've never heard of, The Balconettes.

Chris Martin (not the one from Coldplay) is one of the newest and most exciting acts to hit the comedy circuit.

His wholly original social commentary, observations and anecdotes are his trademark.

He brings intelligent material as well as simple immature jokes to any room.

Compere Kevin is not only a stand-up comedian, he's also an MC and promoter and he's performed his routines at top venues all over the UK.

Tickets cost £12 and are available from www.redcardcomedyclub.com.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **editor@mk-news.co.uk** | phone **01908 689595**

'Dining in the Dark' returns

The acclaimed 'Dining in the Dark' experience returns to the award-winning Calcutta Brasserie on Wednesday 29th February.

'Dining in the Dark' is a new culinary experience that enhances your tastebuds; it lets you sample traditional Indian cuisine in a new way at this unique evening.

Please visit **www.calcuttabrasserie.co.uk** for more details or call **01908 566577** to reserve your table.

3-course menu for only £18.95 per person!

Due to popular demand reservations are on a first-come, first-booked basis!

MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY 18TH MARCH!

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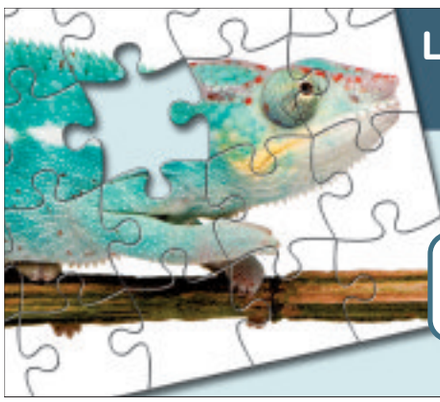

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Furzton

WILSON Peacock is delighted to offer for sale this detached family home set at the end of a cul-de-sac in a popular area of Milton Keynes.

A four-bedroom detached property with accommodation comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and utility room.

Upstairs there is a galleried landing with an open/family room area, four bedrooms with ensuite and a walk-in wardrobe to master bedroom.

Further benefits include a double garage and a generous private driveway with glorious landscaped gardens.

The area is very rural with a linear park running through it, playing fields and a local park.

It is dominated by a beautiful lake with walks and cycleways around it.

Furzton also has a range of amenities that include restaurants and shops and it also falls within great school catchments.

To find out more about this property, on the market for offers over £410,000, or others Wilson Peacock has available, call 01908 606951, or visit the office in Midsummer Boulevard, CMK.

Wilson Peacock is part of the UK's largest estate agency group with more than 1,300 offices nationwide.

Due to the sheer size of its national network of computer linked offices, your property will be proactively marketed and made highly visible online through all the major property websites, with the single aim of selling your property in the shortest timescale to the best buyers and at the best possible price in the current market.

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Stoke Hammond £550,000

Recently refurbished
Executive cottage
Courtyard setting
Finished to a very high specification
Four bedrooms
Double garage size outbuilding

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SOLD - SIMILAR REQUIRED

Bradwell £500,000

17th Century barn conversion
Grade II listed
Main residence and annexe
Three en suites
Open plan living area
Rear court garden

Call us on 01908 240981 for further details

SOLD - SIMILAR REQUIRED

Aspley Guise £580,000

Popular village
Four bedroom
Detached property
Approximately 1/4 of an acre
Detached two bedroom annex
Two storey detached barn

Call us on 01908 240981 for further details

SOLD - SIMILAR REQUIRED

Furzton £795,000

Exclusive Detached
Generous private Plot
Underfloor heating
Double Garage
Views across Furzton Lake
Feature Atrium style Frontage

Call us on 01908 240981 for further details

Broughton

- Five/Six Bed Home
- Overlooking Brook
- Two Ensuites
- Great Views
- No Upper Chain
- Great Motorway Links

£425,000

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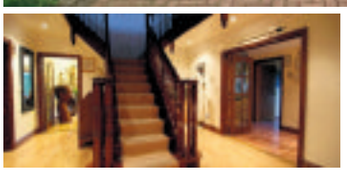
Paulerspury

- Five Bedroom
- Detached Cottage
- Village Location
- Three Reception Rooms
- En Suite to Master
- Approx Half An Acre

£600,000

Call us on 01908 240981 for further details



Shenley Brook End

An executive detached residence situated on an excellent spot set back from the road. A driveway leads to remote powered double gates opening onto blocked frontage with access to double garage.

£725,000

- No Upper Chain
- Five Bedrooms
- Two En Suites
- Butterfly Staircase
- Galleried Landing
- Quarter Acre Plot

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Willen

A beautifully presented and extremely attractive four bedroom detached residence situated on a prominent corner plot in the extremely sought after area of Willen.

£475,000

- Beautifully Presented
- Detached Residence
- Four Bedrooms
- Sought After Area
- Prominent Corner Plot
- Detached Double Garage

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Willen

This property is situated in the sought after area of Willen Village. The current owners have refurbished and extended this executive five bedroom detached property with a triple garage to a very high standard.

£600,000

- Detached Property
- Five Bedrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- Kitchen and Utility Room
- Orangery
- Two Ensuites

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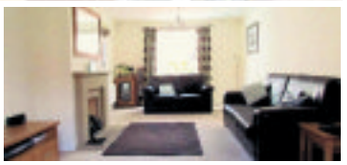

Monkston Park

A well presented five bedroom, three storey detached property with accommodation comprising of conservatory, two ensuites, single garage, five bedrooms.

£425,000

- Very well presented
- Five Bedroom
- Detached
- Three Receptions
- Three Ensuites
- Garage

Call us on 01908 240981 for further details

Giffard Park

Located within the Giffard Park development one of Milton Keynes established areas. The property offers large rooms and accomodation over two floors.

£530,000

- Four Bed Detached
- Popular Location
- Cloakroom & Utility
- Two Ensuites
- Double Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens

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Newton Leys £137,995
- First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Kitchen/Diner
- En suite Bathroom
- Family Bathroom
- Parking

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Downs Barn £210,000
- Three Bedroom
- Link-detached
- Cul-de-sac location
- Conservatory
- Ensuite to Master
- Garage & Gardens

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Emerson Valley £189,995
- Three Bedroom Property
- Double Glazing
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage

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Medbourne £89,995
- Shared Ownership
- Second floor apartment
- Open plan living/kitchen area
- Juliette balconies
- Two Bedrooms
- Allocated parking

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Great Linford £175,000
- Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Garage

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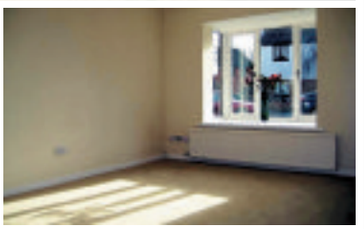

Bradwell OIRO £260,000
- Four Bedrooms
- Detached Property
- Entrance Hall
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Kitchen/Diner
- Master Bedroom with Fitted Wardrobes
- Bathroom
- Gas to Radiator Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Single Garage
- Front Garden
- Rear Garden

Call: 01908 678151

Bradwell £144,995
- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Good Location

Call: 01908 678151

Great Holm £145,000
- Cul de sac location
- Two bedrooms
- Off road parking
- Gardens
- Gas to radiator heating
- Lounge/dining room

Call: 01908 678151

Central MK £185,000
- Two bed apartment
- No chain
- Electric heating
- Private gated access to parking
- New bathroom
- Excellent CMK and train station access

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Heelands £165,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Lounge
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- Front and Rear Gardens
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- Lounge
- Kitchen
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Bancroft Guide Price £240,000
- Much Improved Detached House
- Separate Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas to Radiator Heating
- Refitted Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Detached Garage

Call: 01908 678151

Two Mile Ash £250,000
- Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Ensuite
- Bathroom
- Gardens & Driveway

Call: 01908 678151

Leadenhall £113,000
- Apartment
- Two bedroom
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Bathroom
- Parking area
- No upper chain

Call: 01908 678151

Bradville £110,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Lounge/ Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden

Call: 01908 678151

Milton Keynes £69,950
- Studio Apartment
- Lounge/ Bedroom
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Communal Entrance
- No Chain

Call: 01908 678151

Newton Longville £295,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Study
- Garage
- Driveway
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Sought After Location
- Much Improved

Call: 01908 678151

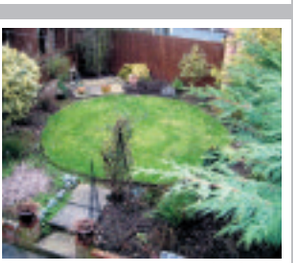
Stantonbury £142,500
- Three Bedrooms
- End of Terrace
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking

Call: 01908 678151

PUBLIC NOTICE

3 Polruan Place Fishermead Milton Keynes MK6 2DZ
We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £67,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Call: 01908 678151



Oldbrook £208,000
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached
- En-suite To Master
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas to Radiator Heating

Call: 01908 678151

Stantonbury £159,950
- Extended and improved home
- Three double bedrooms
- Three reception rooms
- Re-fitted bathroom
- Landscaped rear garden
- Off road parking

Call: 01908 678151

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TAYLORS
Estate Agents

Westcroft Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 524456**
Kingston Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 585552**

Scan using your Smartphone to view all our properties

Shenley Brook End **£285,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Popular Residential location
- Ensuite to Master
- No upper chain
- Off road parking
- Separate Reception rooms

Call: 01908 524456

Oxley Park **£245,000**
- Four/Five Bedroom
- Three Storey
- Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Ensuite to Master
- Front & rear Gardens
- Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 524456

Kents Hill **Offers Over £200,000**
- Three Bed Semi-detached
- Popular Residential area
- Separate Reception rooms
- Ensuite to Master
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Gardens, Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 585552

Monkston **Offers Over £305,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Separate Reception Rooms
- Ensuite to Master
- Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens

Call: 01908 585552

Westcroft **£149,995**
- Well presented
- Two Bedroom
- Ground floor Apartment
- Allocated parking
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 524456

Westcroft **£380,000**
- Four/Five Bed Detached
- Kitchen/Breakfast & Utility
- Two Ensuites
- Driveway & Garage
- Rear Garden
- No upper chain

Call: 01908 524456

Browns Wood **Offers Over £117,500**
- Ideal for a first time buyer or Investor
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- No upper chain
- Allocated parking
- Small front Garden

Call: 01908 585552

Monkston Park **Offers Over £167,000**
- Popular location
- Two Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Allocated parking
- Gas central heating

Call: 01908 585552

Tattenhoe **OIEO £290,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Three Receptions
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Ensuite to Master
- Garage & Gardens

Call: 01908 524456

Crown Hill **Guide £180,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Corner plot
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 524456

Monkston Park **Guide £200,000**
- Three double Bedroom
- Executive Apartment
- Fully fitted Kitchen
- Ensuite to Master
- No upper chain
- Allocated parking

Call: 01908 585552

Walnut Tree **Guide £235,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Dining room
- Front & rear Gardens
- Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 585552

Shenley Church End **OIEO £235,000**
- Extended
- Three Bed Detached
- Three Reception rooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom & Ensuite
- Front & rear Gardens
- Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 524456

Westcroft **£280,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Separate Reception rooms
- Ensuite to Master
- Re-fitted Family Bathroom
- Gardens, Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 524456

Wavendon Gate **Guide £340,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Re-fitted Kitchen & Ensuite
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Dining room
- Double Garage
- Good access to M1 Motorway

Call: 01908 585552

Wavendon Gate **Guide £285,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Three Reception rooms
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Ensuite to Master
- Garage & Driveway
- Enclosed rear Garden

Call: 01908 585552

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Wolverton Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 312623**

Stony Stratford Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 563825**

Scan using your Smartphone to view all our properties

We just made history! We sold this property after having it on the market for 2 HOURS!! Do you want this to be you? Call us on 01908 312623.

Wolverton **£195,000**
- Immaculate condition
- Three Bedroom
- 1930's Semi-detached
- Close to High St.
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Good sized rear Garden & Driveway

Call: 01908 312623

Stony Stratford **OIRO £120,000**
- Two Bedroom
- Ground floor Apartment
- Over 55's
- Close to the High St.
- Communal Gardens & parking
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 563825

Castlethorpe **£375,000**
- Spacious Detached Family Home
- Four/five Bedrooms
- Village location
- Ensuite
- Detached double Garage
- Front, rear & side Gardens

Call: 01908 563825

Blue Bridge **Guide £335,000**
- Three double Bedroom
- Detached Bungalow
- Re-fitted Ensuite to Master
- Kitchen with Granite Worktops & Marble flooring
- Double Garage
- No upper chain

Call: 01908 312623

Greenleys **£115,000**
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Four piece Family Bathroom
- Front & rear Gardens
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 312623

Stony Stratford **£121,995**
- One Bedroom
- First floor Flat
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Garage

Call: 01908 563825

Hartwell **£160,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Driveway & Garage
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 563825

Wolverton Mill **£230,000**
- Four Bedroom
- Detached
- Driveway & converted Garage
- Separate Reception rooms
- Ensuite to Master
- Good sized rear Garden

Call: 01908 312623

Wolverton Mill **Guide £70,000**
- 50% shared ownership
- Two double Bedroom
- Ground floor Apartment
- Allocated parking
- 25ft Lounge/Diner
- Gas central heating

Call: 01908 312623

Stony Stratford **Guide £239,995**
- Extremely well presented
- Three/Four Bedroom
- Chalet style Bungalow
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double length Garage & Driveway

Call: 01908 563825

Deanshanger **£150,000**
- Three Bedrooms
- Separate Reception rooms
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Re-fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Driveway
- Enclosed rear Garden

Call: 01908 563825

We have a Miss T who is a first time buyer looking for a two/three bedroom house in New Bradwell. Please call us on 01908 312623.

Castlethorpe **OIEO £350,000**
- Exceptionally presented
- Five Bed Detached
- Countryside views
- Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Three reception rooms
- Ensuite to Master

Call: 01908 563825

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Newport Pagnell Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01908 611966**

Olney Sales & Lettings **Call us on 01234 713333**

TAYLORS Estate Agents

Newport Pagnell
£120,000

PUBLIC NOTICE -
We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £115000 on 35 Hopton Grove, Newport Pagnell MK16 0DW.
Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Call: 01908 611966

Olney **£200,000**
- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Utility room. Cloackroom
- Bathroom
- Rear garden

Call: 01234 713333

Bozeat **£139,995**
- Three Bedroom Terrace Home
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- No Upper Chain

Call: 01234 713333

Newport Pagnell **£325,000**
- Four Bed Detached
- Town Centre Location
- Re-fitted Cloakroom & Bathroom
- Re-fitted Kitchen & Utility
- Rear and side Gardens
- Driveway & Garage

Call: 01908 611966

Stoke Goldington **£200,000**
- Stone Built Cottage
- End Of Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Allocated Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens

Call: 01234 713333

Lavendon **O.I.E.O £180,000**
- Amazing Views!
- Well Presented
- Three Bedroom
- Terraced Home
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

Call: 01234 713333

Giffard Park **£270,000**
- Five Bedroom Link Detached
- Sought After Location
- Three Receptions Rooms
- Master En Suite
- Garage
- Off Road Parking For Several Cars

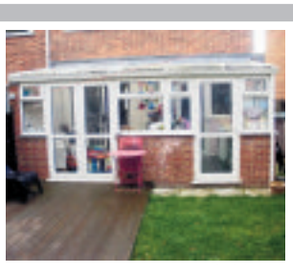
Call: 01908 611966

High Street **£179,995**
- Character Cottage
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Front and Rear Garden

Call: 01234 713333

Olney **£167,500**
- Two Bedrooms
- Character Property
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden

Call: 01234 713333



Newport Pagnell **£180,000**
- Three Bed Semi-detached
- Utility
- Conservatory
- Driveway
- Garage in Block
- Double Glazing

Call: 01908 611966

Selling in Olney? We need your house. 2,3,and 4 bedroom properties needed urgently!

Urgently required. Character properties in Lavendon, Yardley Hastings and Harrold.

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Bletchley Sales & Lettings
Call us on 01908 370861

Scan using your Smartphone to view all our properties

Bletchley **£209,995**
- Three Bedroom
- Extended Detached Bungalow
- Garage
- Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Lounge/Diner
- Gas central heating

Call: 01908 370861

Rivers Estate **Guide £170,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Garage
- Driveway & Gardens

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£99,950**
- Two Bedroom
- First floor
- Flat
- Double glazing
- Kitchen/Diner
- Rear Garden

Call: 01908 370861

Windmill Hill **£300,000**
- Four Bedroom
- Detached
- Separate Receptions
- Ensuite to Master
- Double Garage
- No upper chain

Call: 01908 370861

Rivers Estate **Offers Over £145,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Mid-Terrace
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Garage
- Off road parking

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **OIEO £140,000**
- Recently re-decorated
- Three Bed Semi-detached
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Enclosed rear Garden
- Double glazing
- Private parking for two cars

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£99,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Duplex Maisonette
- Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Kitchen/Diner
- Balcony

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **Offers Over £123,000**
- Three Bedrooms
- Mid-terrace
- Low maintenance Garden
- Lounge/Dining room
- Double glazing
- Radiator heating

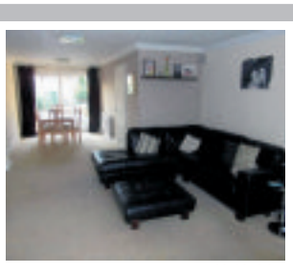
Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£109,995**
- Three Bedrooms
- Cloakroom
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Re-fitted Bathroom
- Front & rear Gardens
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 370861

Trees Estate **Offers Over £180,000**
- Three Bedroom
- Semi-detached
- Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Garage & Driveway
- Front & rear Gardens

Call: 01908 370861



Bletchley **£249,995**
- Well presented and extended
- Four Bed Detached
- Re-fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Utility & Cloakroom
- Garage & Gardens
- Off road parking

Call: 01908 370861

Bletchley **£155,000**
- Newly refurbished
- Three Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front & rear Gardens
- No upper chain
- Double glazing

Call: 01908 370861

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TAYLORS
New Homes

New Homes, CMK Sales & Lettings
Call us on 01908 677227

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SET ON RIVERSIDE £111,996
- 2 Double bedroom new apartment
- Master bedrrom has ensuite
- Parking is behind secure electric gates
- Private residence garden
- Set on a riverside devlopement
- PRICE SHOWN IS A FIRST BUY PRICE

Call: 01908 677227

EASY ACCESS TO M1 £159,950
- Open plan quality fitted kitchen
- 2 double bedrooms
- Allocated parking space
- Located on the east edge of Milton Keynes
- Excellent school catchment area
- Near Kingston centre

Call: 01908 677227

FLEXIBLE LIVING £280,449
- Five bedroom semi detached new home
- Downstairs could be used as a granny flat
- Study and en-suite to master bedroom
- Garage with parking
- Ideally located in East Milton Keynes
- Excellent access to the M1 and good schooling

Call: 01908 677227

SHOW HOME FOR SALE £244,995
- 3 Storey end terrace new home
- Versitile internal layout
- Big windows to most rooms creating a light/airy feel
- Top floor dedicated to the master bedroom
- Garage and two parking spaces
- Situated east of MK with excellent access to the M1

Call: 01908 677227

UNIQUE EXECUTIVE HOME £975,000
- Individual 5 bedroom new home
- Highest specification and inspiring design through out
- Including under floor heating and vaulted ceiling
- Over 5200 sq ft accommodation
- Double garage and electric gates
- Set in desirable Monkston Park

Call: 01908 677227

CANALSIDE APARTMENT £164,995
- 2 Double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- 18ft lounge
- Spacious and modern new build
- Carpets, Fridge/Freezer and washing machine
- Allocated parking space
- Short walk to Willen Lake

Call: 01908 677227

FRINGE OF COUNTRYSIDE £462,000
- 4 bedroom, 2 ensuite, detached new home
- Spacious kitchen leading on to the garden
- Garden backs on to farmland
- Double garage and private driveway
- Location near Salcey Forest
- Quick access to Olney, Milton Keynes and Northampton

Call: 01908 677227

FAMILY HOME £235,000
- Adjacent to Walton Park and Walnut Tree
- 4 Bedroom semi detached with good specification
- Westerly facing garden
- Contemporary kitchen with integrated appliances
- Double parking
- Walking distance to Walton High, Caldecotte Lake, and Simpson

Call: 01908 677227

VILLAGE NEW HOME £176,950
- 3 Bedroom cottage style home
- Spacious open plan living/dining room
- South facing garden
- Double parking to the front
- Village offers a range of amenities and good connections to
- Olney, MK, Bedford, Northampton and Wellingborough

Call: 01908 677227

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT £116,995
- Brand new 2 bedroom apartment
- Individual designed and fitted kitchen
- Sleek and contemporary bathroom
- Large dining/living area
- Great value for money
- OFFERED ON REDUCED COST SCHEME

Call: 01908 677227

FIRST TIME BUY PRICE ONLY £159,960
- Rare 2 bed, 2 bathroom new home
- Generous accommodation
- Large lounge with patio doors to garden
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- 2 parking spaces
- Great location close to lake and nature reserve

Call: 01908 677227

FLEXIBLE LIVING £225,000
- 3 Storey new terrace home
- Open plan 20' kitchen/dining area
- Large separate living room
- Master bedroom includes ensuite and fitted wardrobes
- Two further doubles bedrooms
- Great location near a lake and nature reserve

Call: 01908 677227

PLOT OF THE WEEK £139,950
- Two double bedrooms
- An enclosed terrace
- Intergrated kitchen appliances
- Great specification throughout
- Allocated parking spaces
- Within walking distance of Bletchley station

Call: 01908 677227

RARE OPPORTUNITY £215,000
- 3 bedroom, detached new home
- Highest specification and integrated appliances
- Carpets to bedrooms and laminated wood downstairs
- Patio doors on to the garden
- Tarmac drive and brick car store with parking
- Situated in popular Newport Pagnell

Call: 01908 677227

RARELY AVAILABLE £225,000
- Three bed semi detached new home
- Popular open plan kitchen/diner layout
- Separate lounge to front
- Master bedroom with en-suite
- Driveway leading to a single garage
- Access to M1 and amenities such as Kingston shopping centre

Call: 01908 677227

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Tel 01908 606951

Wilson Peacock estate agents

Bletchley £250,000

Extended detached property
Four bedrooms
Two reception rooms
Downstairs shower room
Garage and parking
Rear garden

Coffee Hall OIEO £115,000

Semi detached property
Two bedrooms
Lounge
Kitchen
Front and rear gardens
Off road parking

Greenleys £285,000

Four bedroom detached
Study/bedroom five
En suite to master
Downstairs cloakroom
Separate reception rooms
Single garage

Browns Wood OIEO £175,000

Semi detached home
Three bedrooms
Separate receptions
Downstairs cloakroom
Gardens to front and rear
Single garage

Bletchley £123,000

Terraced Property
Three Bedrooms
Lounge/diner
Double Glazing
Gas Central Heating
Gardens & Garage

Great Holm £195,000

Three Bedrooms
Gas to Radiator Heating
Double Glazing
Garden
Garage
Off Road Parking

Bradwell £170,000

Three Bedroom Semi
Gas Central Heating
Off Road Parking
Single Garage
Front & Rear Gardens
Popular Location

Racecourses £180,000

Three Bedrooms
Semi-detached
Kitchen/Diner
Gas to Radiator Heating
Garage
Off Road Parking

Bletchley OIEO £145,000

Two Bedroom Apartment
Close To The Train Station
Lounge/Diner
Master En suite
Double Glazing
Allocated Parking

Shenley Lodge £340,000

Four bedroom detached
Four bedrooms
Study and lounge
Dining/family room
Kitchen/breakfast room
En suite

Shenley Church End OIEO £235,000

Detached Property
Three Bedrooms
Two Reception Rooms
Kitchen/Breakfast Room
Conservatory
Garage And Gardens

Newton Longville Guide £250,000

Three Bedrooms
Detached
Extended
Double Glazing
Central Heating
Garage

WANTED

Three bed properties in Monkston and Middleton

Call 01908 606951 if you can help!

Emerson Valley £385,000

Four bedroom detached
Separate receptions
Conservatory

En suite to master
Re-fitted bathroom
Double garage

WANTED

Mr C wants a three bed property in the Tattenhoe or Kingsmead area

Call 01908 606951 if you can help!

"Is achieving the best possible price important to you? Call Today!"

Wilson Peacock Estate Agents

653 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, Bucks MK9 3BQ

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Bozeat — Guide Price £425,000

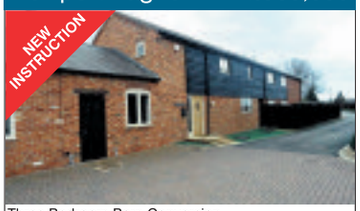
Well Presented
Five Bedroom
Detached Family Home

With Annexe
Double Garage
Call 01243 711481

Newport Pagnell — £115,000

Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
Kitchen/Diner
Gas Central Heating
Close to the High Street
Allocated Parking
Call 01908 611388

Newport Pagnell — £365,000



Three Bedroom Barn Conversion
Lounge. Dining Room
Cloakroom. Family Area
Kitchen . Utiliy Room
Bathroom. Ensuite Bathroom
Call 01908 611388

Bozeat — O.I.E.O £240,000

Four Bedrooms Detached Property
Three Reception Rooms
Kitchen
Conservatory
Backs On to Countryside
Call 01234 711481

Horton — £299,995

Very Well Presented
Four/Five Bedroom
Character Property
Dating Back Over 100 Years
Two Bathrooms
Call 01234 711481

Newport Pagnell O.I.E.O £190,000

Semi Detached Home
Two Reception Rooms
Three Bedrooms
Conservatory
Garage . Front and Rear Garden
Call 01908 611388

Newport Pagnell — £340,000

Four Bedroom Detached Property
Popular Cul-De-Sac Location
Conservatory
En Suite To Master
Double Garage
Call 01908 611388

Wollaston — £425,000

Four Bedroom Detached
Separate Reception Rooms
En-suite To Master

Double Glazing
Off Road Parking
Call 01234 711481

Newport Pagnell — £325,000

Four Bed Detached
Double Garage
Well Presented
Double Glazing
Front & Rear Gardens
Call 01908 611388

Newport Pagnell Guide Price £125,000

Two Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
Kitchen
Lounge/Diner
Bathroom
Allocated Parking
Call 01908 611388

FINDER SERVICE

We currently have Mrs S who has sold subject to contract and is looking to purchase a 4 bedroom property in Olney. Please Call 01234 711481

FINDER SERVICE

We currently have Mr K who is in rented accommodation and is looking to purchase a 2 bedroom property in Olney. Please Call 01234 711481

Newport Pagnell — £240,000

Four/Five Bedroom Detached Home
Over three Floors
Refitted Kitchen
Two En Suites
Viewing Recommended
Call 01908 611388

Newport Pagnell O.I.E.O £200,000

Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
Re-fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
Driveway & Garage
Front & rear Gardens
Cul- De- Sac Location
Call 01908 611388

Call Today for a free Market Appraisal! Letting instead? Call us now

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E newportpagnell@wilsonpeacock.co.uk
W www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk

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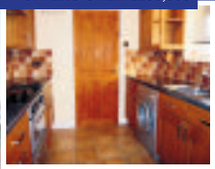
NEWPORT PAGNELL - VACANT **OFFERS OVER £200,000**



A MUCH IMPROVED detached bungalow comprising lounge, REFITTED KITCHEN, three bedrooms, REFITTED BATHROOM, single garage and low maintenance gardens.

VACANT FLAT IN MEDBOURNE **£94,995**

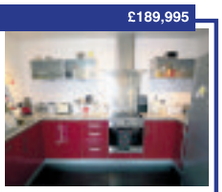
A top floor flat comprising entrance hall, open plan lounge/diner/kitchen, double bedroom with built in wardrobes and bathroom. Outside there is an allocated parking space.

SHENLEY LODGE **£287,000**

IN NEED OF FULL REFURBISHMENT. A detached family home located in a cul de sac in one of Milton Keynes most sought after areas. This property MUST BE VIEWED to see the potential.

Ryan Daniel
ESTATE AGENTS

EXECUTIVE APARTMENT **£189,995**



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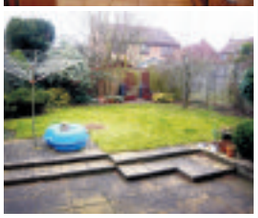
BARLEYHURST PARK - MUST BE VIEWED **£239,995**

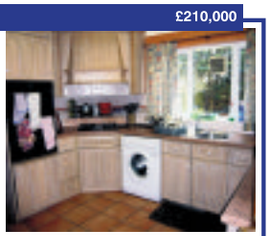


Located in a CUL DE SAC is this VERY WELL PRESENTED detached family home benefiting from sealed unit double glazing and gas radiator central heating. The accommodation comprises entrance hall, REFITTED CLOAKROOM, dual aspect lounge/diner, REFITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES, utility area, FOUR BEDROOMS and a REFITTED BATHROOM. Outside there are gardens to the front and rear, a driveway providing off road parking and a single garage.

IMMACULATE DETACHED FAMILY HOME IN KENTS HILL **£314,995**

A VERY WELL PRESENTED detached family home comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen, utility room, lounge, separate dining room, PVCu double glazed conservatory, FOUR BEDROOMS, (master with en suite) and a bathroom. Outside there is an enclosed rear garden and off road parking to the front. Benefits to the property include FULL REPLACEMENT DOUBLE GLAZING and gas radiator central heating. This property MUST BE VIEWED to fully appreciate all it has to offer.

OLDBROOK - NO UPWARD CHAIN **£210,000**



A detached family home located on the ever popular Oldbrook development within walking distance of the shopping centre and the railway station. The property benefits from replacement PVCu double glazing, gas radiator central heating and comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, cloakroom, master bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms and bathroom. Outside there are gardens to front and rear and a single garage.

BANCROFT - IN NEED OF MODERNISATION **£169,950**

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Physical Education Teacher

Required from September 2012

We are looking for a talented and motivated teacher of Physical Education who has a specialism in either hockey, netball or lacrosse. The successful candidate will teach GCSE and/or A level PE, be committed to achieving high standards of teaching and learning and make a full contribution to the co-curricular Life of the School where individuals and teams excel at county, regional and national level.

The Bedford Charity salary scale applies. Benefits currently include fee remission and free membership of BUPA.

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Full Time, Term Time Only - required immediately

The ideal applicant will have previous experience of working in a school science lab with excellent organisational and interpersonal skills. The role will include assisting in the science lab, undertaking risk assessments, preparing for lessons and experiments, ensuring all apparatus and chemicals are correctly handled and maintained in accordance with COSHH standards.

An application form and detailed job descriptions and person specifications can be downloaded from the Connected Community / Employment Opportunities link on our website: www.bedfordgirlsschool.co.uk or requested by email from hr@bedfordgirlsschool.co.uk.

Closing date for both posts: Wednesday 29th February 2012

The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced CRB check. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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Closing date: 27th February 2012

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Your participation will be much appreciated, as we need your help to collect the relevant data for this study. Please contact Loes Koorenhof on 01908 659472 or email: l.j.koorenhof@open.ac.uk

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The successful candidate will be a highly motivated self-starter, with a proven ability to thrive in a demanding environment. You are likely to hold an ICSA, legal or accountancy qualification and will have extensive company secretarial experience, ideally gained in diverse operational environment. You will also offer leadership and finance credentials, gravitas and the presence to command respect and confidence from the executive team within Yattendon Group and the subsidiary businesses.

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For more information please visit www.bcs.org

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An opportunity has arisen to recruit a Child Protection Co-ordinator to assist the school in ensuring that all pupils are provided with a safe and secure environment.

Hours of work: 32.5 per week, term-time only plus 5 training days
Rate of pay: £13,403 per annum

To obtain the information and application pack for this post please send an e-mail request to the school at office@st-johns-school.co.uk or for further details, please contact the school office

Closing date for this post:
Tuesday 28 February 2012 at 12 noon
Interview date: Tuesday 06 March 2012

St. John's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and/or vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Working towards equality

---

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Assistant Head Teacher

Full-time position
L4 - L8, £40,339 - £44,525 per annum
Point of entry negotiable subject to experience
Required for September 2012

As part of our continuing expansion, the Governing Body is seeking a highly skilled Assistant Head Teacher.

You will:

- Be an outstanding practitioner across the Primary phase
- Have experience of coaching and mentoring other practitioners
- Have experience of working with children for whom English is an additional language
- Have the ability to motivate and challenge staff
- Provide strategic leadership working alongside the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher
- Assist with the monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning.

In return we will offer:

- An opportunity to shape and develop a growing and changing school
- Well behaved pupils, ready to learn
- Supportive, friendly and committed colleagues
- Excellent professional development.

Visits to the school are encouraged and warmly welcomed.

For further details or an application form please contact the Business Manager on 01582 723430 or email st.margaret.of.scotland.primary.admin@luton.gov.uk

Closing date: 9.00am, 12 March 2012. **Ref: 40/0320**

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.
Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff to share this commitment.
Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

We value equality because quality services needthe best people - from the whole community.

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Although experience within the construction industry is not necessary sales experience is a prerequisite. Full training will be provided allowing the successful candidate the opportunity to excel in this role.

Ideal candidates should possess the ability to work to deadlines, have a high attention to detail, excellent negotiation skills, be highly numerate, possess good oral and written communication skills and above all else be highly motivated, driven by success and deliver results.

Clearly we are looking for individuals with exceptional qualities so not only can you look forward to working for a progressive company but also to receiving a competitive salary, performance related bonus, pension and a positive friendly environment with full training.

Please forward your CV and covering letter to:
Tim Hill, AC PLC, Beancroft Farm, Beancroft Road, Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire MK43 0QE
Email: thill@acplc.net

The Walnuts School

The Walnuts School

Admiral Drive, Hazeley,
Milton Keynes MK8 0PU
Telephone: 01908 563885
Fax: 01908 555617
Headteacher: Nick Jackman

The Walnuts School is an all age (4–19) residential special school for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders. We are seeking additional staff to join our dedicated, established team. Experience and motivation is a requirement for these posts, as is a genuine empathy with children and young people. The ability to be flexible, innovative and reliable is highly desirable.

The Walnuts has a successful record of staff development and training including knowledge and understanding of autism for all staff.

Teachers

MPS or UPS + SEN 1
Required as soon as possible

We would welcome applications from teachers with experience across all Key Stages who are seeking a new challenge. We are looking for full-time and part-time teachers, for both permanent and temporary contracts.

Teaching Assistants

MK4 £15,725 – MK6 £25,472 FTE
Required as soon as possible

We require experienced teaching assistants for 32.5 hours a week, 39 weeks per year. We welcome applications from teaching assistants with a range of qualifications and from those with HLTA status.

For an application form and further details, or if you would like to arrange a visit, please telephone the school on 01908 563885or email admin@walnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Closing date: Friday, 16th March 2012.
Interview date: w/c Monday, 26th March 2012.

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Applications are invited from enthusiastic candidates who would welcome the opportunity to work in this well-resourced and high achieving Academy. You should be passionate about your subject and able to lead and motivate a team of committed teachers to provide high quality lessons that inspire and extend our children.

Further information and application forms are available from our website www.albanacademy.org

Visits to the school are welcomed.

Closing Date: Friday 2nd March 2012 (12.00 noon)

Interviews: W/C 5th March 2012

Administrator

required for Dunstable based Building Contractor.

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Or post: Dale Contracts Ltd, 204a High Street South, Dunstable, LU6 3HS

REF Administrator

The Open University

Research School
£24,520 - £29,249 Ref: 7809
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Based in Milton Keynes

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced, professional and highly motivated administrator to join The Open University, the UK's largest teaching and research university. Working in the Research School, the OU's central support function for academic research, you will provide administrative support for the University's preparations for, and submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014.

You will have significant administrative experience, ideally in a research or higher education setting and be educated to degree level or equivalent. With excellent organisational and communication (written and verbal) skills, you will be a good team player and be able to juggle a varied workload in a busy environment. Personal involvement in previous UK research assessment exercises or preparations for REF 2014 would be a distinct advantage.

For detailed information and how to apply, go to www.open.ac.uk/employment or email the Recruitment Co-ordinator Univ-Sec-Recruitment@open.ac.uk quoting the reference number. Closing date: noon 8 March 2012. Interview date: 23 March 2012.

Further particulars are available in large print, disk or audiotape (minicom 01908 654901).

We promote diversity in employment and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

www.jobsnow.co.uk

Giffard Park Primary School

Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, MK14 5PY
Tel: 01908 617868 Headteacher: Glenn Booth
www.giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk Twitter: @gboothatgiffard

Giffard Park Primary is a successful school with high expectations situated in an established area of Milton Keynes. Due to the success and growth of the school, we have created two additional leadership roles to enhance our team from September 2012.

Leader of Standards in English

(TLR 2(a) - £2,535)

and a

Leader of Standards in Maths

(TLR 2(a) - £2,535)

The governors, staff and children are looking to appoint lead professionals who:

- are outstanding classroom teachers (in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2);
- have a passion to lead, motivate and inspire others to create active learning;
- are determined to raise standards in order to secure the best possible outcomes for each child; and
- are inspirational curriculum leaders and who have the vision and ability to take our school forward in English and Maths.

If this describes you, then we can offer you:

- enthusiastic pupils who are eager to learn and an ethos of high expectations;
- access to high quality teaching resources, including outstanding ICT facilities;
- excellent CPD opportunities and support to develop your leadership role; and
- the opportunity to use this role as a career step.

For an information pack, or to arrange a visit, please contact Natalie Goodman on (01908) 617868 or email the school at enquiries@ giffardpark.milton-keynes.sch.uk.

The closing date for applications is **noon, 12th March, 2012.**
Shortlisting: 13th March 2012 Interviews: **22nd March, 2012**

Giffard Park Primary School is an equal opportunities employer and committed to safeguarding children.

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System Administrator – Revenues & Benefits

Up to £25,000 pa • Ref: GBS2730

Revenues and Benefits depends on efficient IT systems, so the entire service will rely on your skills to keep things running, particularly at year-end. You'll be in charge of everything from software loading and testing to maintaining maximum system availability. Reconciling outputs for statutory documentation, you'll take care of cash, subsidy and statistical data and check for any discrepancies.

Highly numerate, your IT systems administration skills will ideally have been gained in a local government environment, equipping you with a good working knowledge of Northgate Revenues & Benefits, Information@Work and related legislation.

Benefits Overpayment Recovery Officer

£17,000 - £21,000 pa • Ref: GBS2731

As a key member of the Overpayment Recovery Team, your well-developed interpersonal skills and firm but fair approach will help the Council recover valuable missing revenue. You'll be setting up and monitoring payment arrangements, issuing invoices and reminders and, where necessary, enforcing compliance through referrals to external collection agencies.

The role will make full use of your effective communication skills, both in writing and over the phone. Previous credit or debt recovery experience will mean you have strong negotiation skills, a persuasive approach and a working knowledge of MS Excel and Word.

Revenues Advisors

£17,000 - £21,000 pa • Ref: GBS2729

We're looking for a team of strong administrators to deal efficiently with Council Tax and Business Rates billing and collection. You'll keep accounts updated and resolve queries over the telephone and in writing.

Customer focused, with a working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages, your previous experience will have proven you can work effectively and accurately under pressure. Ideally, you'll also have Council Tax and NNDR experience, but training is available for candidates who can show strong motivation and customer facing skills.

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Closing date for applications: 7th March 2012.

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We are looking for a highly motivated individual to maintain an already established customer base by setting effective & exciting campaigns, as well as gaining new business through canvassing and cold calling.
Our dedicated recruitment team are responsible for all the recruitment sections in the LSN titles - Milton Keynes, Bedford, Luton,Dunstable & Northampton as well as our Staffordshire group of newspapers and recruitment websites.
Whilst advertising sales experience isn't necessary, you will need to be presentable, persuasive and confident at communicating on the telephone and face to face at both MD and grass roots level. Strong administration skills and organisation are vital as well as a keen eye for detail.

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If you have that 'certain something' to join our friendly team, please email your CV with a covering letter to **marie.baker@mk-news.co.uk** explaining why you are just the person we're looking for.

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It is the company's policy to employ the best qualified personnel and provide equal opportunity for the advancement of employees including promotion and training and not discriminate against any person because of sex, race, pregnancy, disability, marital or family status, ages, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or trade union memberships.

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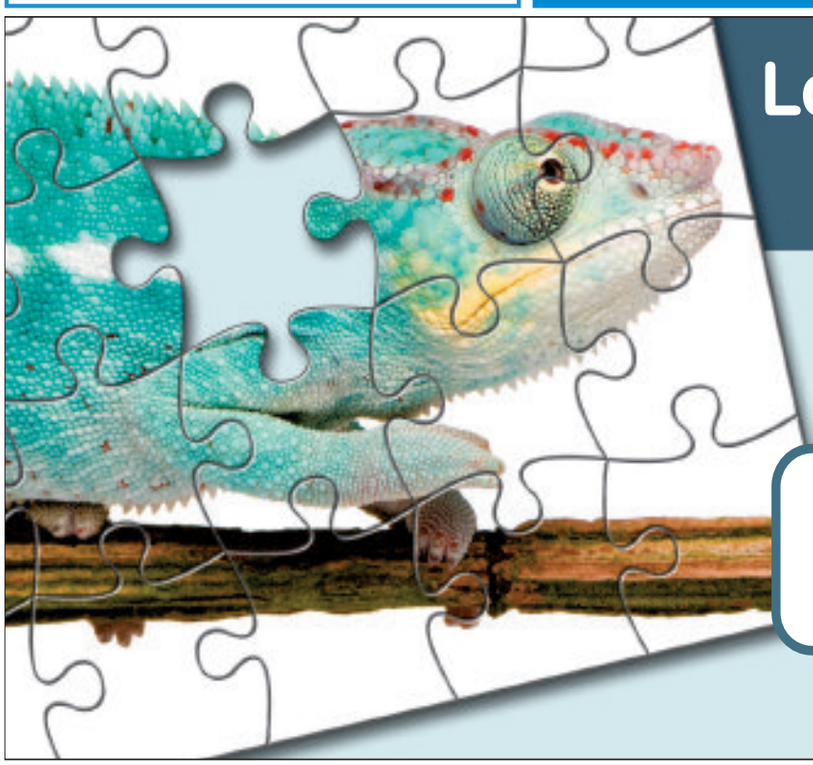

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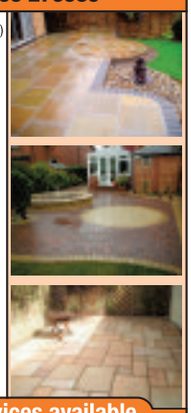

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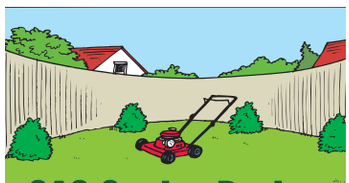

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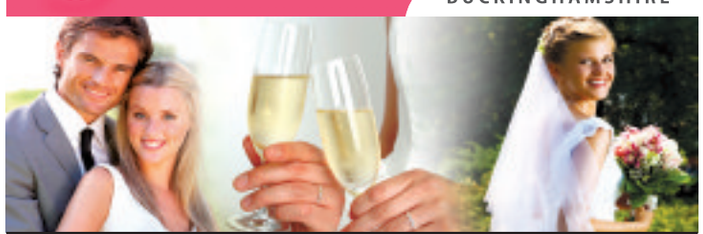
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TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381727**

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IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 381701**

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ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (A4146 KELLY'S KITCHEN ROUNDABOUT, MILTON KEYNES) (TEMPORARY 50 MILES PER HOUR SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the A5 Trunk Road in Milton Keynes, to provide a safe working environment for the workforce whilst works are carried out to install traffic signals at Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout.

The works are expected to take place over 6 months beginning on or after Monday 5 March 2012.

The effect of the Order will be to impose a 50 miles per hour speed limit on the A5 between points 1700 metres north and 1700 metres south of its junctions with the A4146 Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout, including the circulatory carriageway of the roundabout.

The temporary mandatory speed limit will not apply to emergency service and special forces vehicles.

The Order will come into force on 27 February 2012 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Mrs A V Middleton, An official of the Highways Agency

General enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to Andy Shilliday at the Highways Agency, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7LW or by telephoning him on 01234 796197.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
(BRECKLAND, LINFORD WOOD) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes for the purpose of facilitating the holding of a relevant event, which is being promoted by Dr Mick Bromilow, Chair of the Milton Keynes Athletics Club, namely the South of England Road Relay Championships, intends, to make an Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit vehicular access along the entire length of Breckland, Linford Wood.

It is anticipated the closure will commence on Sunday 25th March 2012 between the hours of 11.45am and 5.15pm.

Whilst this closure is in effect there will be no alternative route for traffic, however, access will be maintained to affected business premises for the duration of the temporary restrictions.

There shall be no exemptions from the provisions of this Order apart from emergency service vehicles, military vehicles on operational duties and those vehicles in connection with the event.

The proposed Order will come into operation on the 25th March 2012 and will continue in force for a maximum period of 3 days.

A copy of the proposed Order, a statement of reasons for making the Order and a map showing the areas referred to, may be inspected during opening hours at Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes and during normal office hours at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, quoting reference number WL/P&E/004892/TCO/1900.

Any person committing a breach of the Order will be liable upon prosecution to such fine as is prescribed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

22nd February 2012

Philip McCourt, Assistant Director – Law & Governance

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
(VARIOUS ROADS, OXLEY PARK) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will affect all classes of vehicle and will have the following effects in parts of roads within Oxley Park:-

- The introduction of 'No Waiting at Any Time' restrictions along parts of Redgrave Drive, Powis Lane and Hepburn Crescent;
- The introduction of 'No Loading' restrictions, Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 9.30 am and 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm, along parts of Redgrave Drive, Powis Lane and Hepburn Crescent.

Exemptions from the proposed Order include: emergency service vehicles, military vehicles, statutory undertakers, building, demolition and excavation, disabled persons badge holders, and some others.

Copies of the proposed Order together with maps showing the areas referred to and a Statement of Reasons for proposing the Order may be inspected during opening hours at Milton Keynes Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes and during normal office hours at Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes.

Any objections to the proposals, together with the grounds on which they are made, must be **made in writing** and sent to the undersigned **to be received** no later than 14 March 2012 quoting reference BAS-P&E-004953-1909.

22 February 2012

Philip McCourt, Assistant Director – Law & Governance

THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MILTON KEYNES
(VARIOUS ROADS, WAVENDON) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes has on 22 February 2012 made an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order, which comes into effect on 23 February 2012, affects all classes of vehicle and introduces the following restrictions in roads within Wavendon:-

Stockwell Lane (part) both sides:- 'No Waiting at any Time' and 'No Loading Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 9.30 am and 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm', commencing from points approximately 4.5 metres north of the northern boundary line of Stockwell House and continuing southerly to its junction with Walton Road;

Walton Road (parts):- 'No Waiting at any Time' and 'No Loading Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 9.30 am and 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm', that part commencing from a point approximately 10 metres west of the eastern boundary line of number 41, continuing westerly to its junction with Stockwell Lane; and that part commencing from a point adjacent to The Bungalow, continuing easterly then northerly to its junction with Stockwell Lane.

Exemptions from the Order include emergency service vehicles, military vehicles, statutory undertakers, some loading and unloading, building, demolition and excavation, disabled persons badge holders, and some others.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in the Order on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the Act or any Instrument made under the Act has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order was made, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

22 February 2012

Philip McCourt, Assistant Director – Law & Governance

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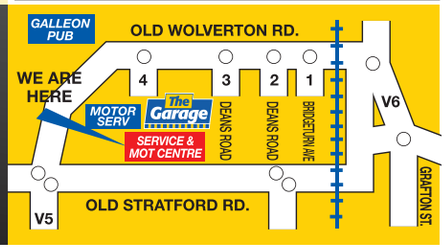

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0% APR representative

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* Offer is valid for standard Myvi SXI (manual) only when finance is arranged through Close Motor Finance on the above mentioned finance deal. Finance must be arranged through Close Motor Finance and the finance must be approved by Close Motor Finance by 31st December 2011. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer currently available from Perodua, except the £1,000 retail incentive which is already deducted from cash price of £6,999. Offer is available to mainland UK customers only. Finance is subject to status, indemnities may be required and terms and conditions apply to residents of the UK and Channel Islands aged 18 years or older. Finance provided through Close Motor Finance Limited, Roman House, Roman Road, Doncaster, DN4 5EZ. † OTR price for Myvi SXI (manual) includes £1000 retail incentive, 6 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Retail incentive offer is valid until 31st December 2011. Pictures are for illustration purposes only and may differ in specification to actual vehicle sold. Official Government fuel consumption figures (mpg) Myvi SXI: 37.7 Urban; 58.8 Extra Urban; 48.7 Combined. Myvi EZI: 32.8 Urban; 54.3 Extra Urban; 44.1 Combined. CO2 SXI: 137g/km EZI: 151 g/km.

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*Price shown is for GEN-2 ecoLogic 1.6 GLS MT, manufacturer's list price £10,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. Model shown/specified is GEN-2 ecoLogic GSX MT, manufacturer's list price £11,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. GEN-2 ecoLogic models with automatic transmission are registered by Proton prior to conversion. ¹Free leather offer ends 31st March 2012 and is available on GEN-2 GSX models only. Available at participating dealers only and excludes Motability and Fleet sales. ±Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. †LPG prices taken from www.petrolprices.com - national LPG average on the 20th December 2011. ^FREE servicing on Proton vehicles registered until 31st March 2012 and available for the first owner only.

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Deano first half double downs Shakers in classy Dons show

DONS 2

BURY 1

DAN Powell is getting a lot of headlines after his piece of sportsmanship against Oldham on Saturday.

Despite being in an excellent position up the field he kicked the ball out of play when Oldham's Paul Black went down injured.

My first reaction was 'what is he doing?!' as in my day I don't think anybody would have done that.

You didn't stop when a player got injured at all, you just carried on and took advantage.

But give the lad credit as he genuinely felt that it was a bad injury and he took it on himself to kick the ball out.

We can't take any credit for that, all the credit has to go to Dan Powell. He's given Dons a good name by being so sporting.

Lee Clark and Martin Allen have lost their jobs at Huddersfield and Notts County – football is harsh as managers are getting sacked even when they are in a great position in the league.

I've spoken to both as they are both really good guys. Martin's done a good job at County and Lee's record is there for everyone to see. I think they'll both get jobs fairly quickly.

The Oldham win was our first in seven games but that doesn't tell the true story.

In that period we've played QPR twice, where the lads were outstanding, and claimed two good points against Sheffield Wednesday and Huddersfield who are both in the top four.

We lost to Stevenage – who proved by drawing 0-0 with Tottenham in the FA Cup what a good side they are – but we wouldn't have been beaten if we hadn't gone down to ten men.

Against Charlton on Tuesday I thought the lads were almost heroic.

Gary MacKenzie's sending off cost us the game but for the rest of it we made them look like an average team – and they're top of the league.

Sometimes if he we don't win it doesn't come through how well we have played.

It was suggested that Charlton took their foot of the gas but they didn't, they never got a kick as we didn't give them a chance.

I think we're playing some of the best football in the country in bad conditions with limited players – we deserve to have supporters in the ground because the football can be a joy to watch.

FROM BACK PAGE

thanks to leading marksman Bowditch. MacDonald flicked on a swinging delivery in the box and Bowditch stopped low at the back post with a diving header which nestled into the corner.

It was nothing more than Dons deserved and the hosts soon tested Belford again through Stephen Gleeson's shot which deflected into the keeper's hands.

MacDonald then weaved around Belford to put himself in an excellent position but when he tried to steer the ball in from a narrow angle his shot cannoned into the post.

Gleeson picked up a booking – his tenth of the season which will now mean a suspension – following a vocal exchange with Bury's Peter Sweeney but he then nearly contributed in a more positive fashion with a bending free-kick which Belford had to punch away from his top corner.

The closing minutes of the half were a stop-start affair due to referee Darren Drysdale regularly blowing up for fouls and although this briefly disrupted Dons' rhythm they suddenly had two reasons to relish the second half.

Bury's Giles Coke, booked in the opening ten minutes for a foul on Gleeson, was sent for an early bath for tugging back Mathias Doumbe and things got even better for Dons barely a minute later.

Smith nipped around Belford with just seconds left of the half and was clipped by the Bury keeper while looking set to tuck away his first goal for the club.

Mr Drysdale had no hesitation in awarding a spot-kick and Bowditch dispatched a finish into the net to score his second penalty in as many games.

Gleeson was replaced by Ibehre at half-time and Dons had Bury under pressure from the outset with some stylish play which suggested that it may be a long half for the Shakers.

Bury pushed every player except Lenell John-Lewis deep and looked for glimmers of hope on the break as they attempted to frustrate as much as possible and a series of niggly fouls crept into the visitors' game.

Dons wanted another penalty when Joe Skarz appeared to trip Dan Powell in the box and Ibehre curled over as Dons steamed forward with intent.

BRACE: Dean Bowditch holds off two Bury defenders (main picture) and heads in his first goal of the evening (inset)

LEAGUE ONE PROMOTION RACE

		Home					Away						
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Charlton Ath	31	9	6	0	31	11	11	3	2	26	12	34	69
2	Sheffield Utd	30	12	2	2	38	17	7	3	4	20	12	29	62
3	Sheffield Wed	32	10	3	2	29	15	7	3	7	25	26	13	57
4	Huddersfield	30	9	5	2	26	15	5	8	1	31	15	27	55
5	MK Dons	31	8	6	1	32	15	7	4	5	29	20	26	55
6	Stevenage	28	6	4	3	21	14	7	5	3	23	11	19	48
7	Carlisle Utd	30	7	5	3	26	23	5	5	5	17	25	-5	46
8	Bournemouth	32	6	2	7	17	19	6	6	5	21	19	0	44

REMAINING FIXTURES 2011/12

FEB 25 BOURNEMOUTH (A)
MAR 3 HARTLEPOOL (A)
MAR 6 YEOVIL (H)
MAR 10 EXETER (H)
MAR 17 CHESTERFIELD (A)
MAR 20 LEYTON ORIENT (H)
MAR 27 CARLISLE (H)
MAR 24 WYCOMBE (A)
MAR 31 BRENTFORD (H)
APR 7 PRESTON (A)
APR 9 TRANMERE (H)
APR 14 SCUNTHORPE (A)
APR 21 SHEFF UTD (H)
APR 28 ROCHDALE (A)
MAY 5 WALSALL (H)

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Sub Jay O'Shea tested Belford again from the edge of the area but Bury's ten men resolutely held out with some stern backs-to-the-wall defending.

MacDonald should have done better with a close-range header which looped onto the roof of the net as Dons continued to camp in the Bury half and only a last-ditch tackle from Skarz prevented Bowditch from tapping in for his hat-trick.

Another bullet header from MacDonald flashed over as the second half finished scoreless, and from nowhere Bury dramatically had a late chance to level.

Martin had been a spectator for the entire half but he suddenly had to claim when Mark Hughes ghosted in behind the home defence.

It was a scare but anything other than a Dons victory would have been an injustice after a comfortable and confident performance.

Dons: Martin, Tavernier, Lewington, Doumbe, Gleeson (Ibehre 46), Potter, Bowditch (Chadwick 87), MacDonald, Smith, S.Williams, Powell (O'Shea 72). Unused subs: McLoughlin, Chicksen.

Bury: Belford, Picken (Eastham 59), Skarz, Sweeney (Worrall 47), Schumacher (Harrop 79), John-Lewis, Carrington, Coke, Sodje, Hughes, Amoo. Unused subs: Elford-Alliyu, A.Williams.

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SPORTSSHORTS

HOCKEY

Sevenoaks 1sts 1 Milton Keynes 1sts 1

MK GAINED a valuable point but will be disappointed not to have won after Brett Holland's effort gave them a second half lead.

Opportunities for a second went begging and Sevenoaks were able to level. For a full hockey round-up visit www.mk-news.co.uk/sport.

SWIMMING

CITY of Milton Keynes Swimming Club members continued to perform well during the second weekend of this year's Oxon and North Bucks County Championships at Aquavale in Aylesbury.

Isobel Jones won the junior and senior 400m freestyle titles in a close race with team mate Charlotte Evans.

Her time was a new club record and the girls are now ranked second and third in their age group in the UK. Joss Ulyett finished in third to complete a 1-2-3.

Joss retained her 400m individual medley senior title and in the junior 400m IM event there was a 1-2-3 for Joss, Charlotte and Isobel.

Matt Masters won the 400m men's freestyle and Courtney Dos Santos was second in the junior event.

Ben Flaherty won the 400m IM with a new club record and Courtney added the junior 400 IM title.

There were wins for Sydney Wood (400m IM) Helen Odams (400m free) Max Murphy (400m IM and free) and Bethany Barby (400m IM) in other classes and CMK also won relay gold by a whisker thanks to the 13 and 14-year-old freestyle team.

TAEKWONDO

CITY Students from the Chand Institute of Taekwondo attended the ITF Welsh Championships on Sunday.

In the 'generation X' U7 division, Katie Burke achieved a silver medal for sparring, and in the kids' kickers eight to ten years division, Ayesha Khan achieved a silver for patterns and bronze for sparring.

Jade Wren achieved gold for patterns and silver for sparring in the cadet 11 to 13 years division, and Yasmina Soki and Josh Bailey also picked up silvers for sparring in this category.

In the adult division, Scott Owen achieved a silver medal for sparring and in the senior division Reuben Sokhi achieved a gold and a silver for sparring.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

THE MK Pathfinders are preparing their squad ahead of the new season.

To find out how they are shaping up, visit www.mk-news.co.uk and click on the sports interviews box.

BASKETBALL

Justin time for a top four push

Lions 96 Leicester Riders 99
Worcester Wolves 94 Lions 86

MIKE New wielded the axe after his Lions side suffered back-to-back defeats this weekend.

Power forward Howard Crawford has been released and will be replaced by fellow American Justin Dobbins, who was recently allowed to leave British Basketball League rivals Sheffield Sharks.

New thinks that the switch was essential as he still believes that Lions can achieve a top four finish in the BBL.

He moved quickly to bring Dobbins to the city upon learning of his availability.

"I still think we can make the top four so it was critical to make the move now," New told MK NEWS.

"We had to make the most of the opportunity and I think this signing will raise some eyebrows.

"Howard has a wealth of talent but he wasn't as consistent as I'd have liked, especially with his rebounding.

"Justin is a proven rebounder and he'll be an awesome fit."

New described Friday night's home defeat to rivals Leicester as a 'heavyweight bout' after seeing his side narrowly lose out thanks to a Cameron Rundles three pointer six seconds from time.

Lions still had a chance to level but they could not get a shot away in time, and the Worcester defeat was yet another nail-biter.

Three-pointers in the closing stages by Stefan Gill and Nuno Pedroso cut the gap to just 88-86, but second placed Worcester pulled away.

Lions also lost their BBL Trophy semi-final with Plymouth after late drama and New admitted that things had been 'emotionally draining'.

He said: "To hang in there against Leicester and Worcester shows that we are playing some good basketball.

"We now have a full squad back from injury, for the first time in a while, and I'm really excited about that."

There are eight play-off spots up for grabs and Lions are currently seventh.

This week sees a trip to Sheffield on Friday, before a home game with Glasgow on Sunday, tip-off at 5pm.

Howard Crawford, in action against Leicester, has played his last game for Lions. Pictures: F1 Point Zero.

SPORTSSHORTS

RUGBY UNION

Milton Keynes 19 Tadley 6

THERE was a victory for MK but they missed out on a valuable bonus point as they look to gain ground on the top three in the Southern Counties North.

Cold and wet conditions meant that there were errors throughout the game and it was Tadley who started better, going 6-0 up with two penalties.

The hosts struck back though with Phil Powell converting his own try to give MK the lead, before further scores from Richard Hill and Dan Rolfe completed the success.

Olney 6 Coney Hill 32

BOTTOM club Olney suffered another defeat in the South West 1 East, with all but three of the points scored coming in the second half.

Two penalties were all the home side had to show for their efforts as Coney Hill ran in five tries.

Bletchley 10 Swanage & Wareham 3

BLETCHLEY claimed a narrow win in a game dominated by the two packs.

Handling was tricky but Bletchley scored two tries and were strong defensively, restricting their opponents to just a late penalty.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

UCL Premier: Spalding 2 Newport Pagnell 1; Spartan South Midlands: St Albans City Res 3 Stony Stratford 1, New Bradwell 1 London Lions 6.

MK SUNDAY LEAGUE

WILLEN remain top of the Premier League after a 6-0 win over Padbury AFC but Stony Stratford are eight points behind with five games in hand after their 7-1 win against FC Lifesearch.

In Division One, Olney Town still lead the way after their 5-0 win against Stantonbury Social B.

ATHLETICS

A LEAP of 5.43m by MK Athletics Club long jumper Sophie Wilkins was enough to win the British Universities v RAF indoor match in Sheffield.

At the Scottish Masters Indoor Championships in Glasgow F50 athlete Jan Hardcastle claimed a silver and bronze medal, recording 11.68s for second place in the 60m hurdles and 9.43s in the 60m for third spot. Jan Lawson was fifth in the 60m to claim the F55 title in 11.68s.

BADMINTON

AN ENGLAND squad filled with players based at the city's National Badminton Centre claimed a third placed finish at the European Men's Team Championships in Amsterdam.

Nathan Robertson and Chris Langridge came from a game down to beat Russian pair Vitalij Durkin and Alexandr Nikolaenko 19-21, 21-14, 21-10 which claimed an unassailable 3-0 lead for England in the third/fourth placed play-off.

England had earlier been knocked out of the competition by Denmark at the semi-final stage.

To hear more from Olympic medallist Robertson ahead of London 2012 visit www.mk-news.co.uk and click on the sports interviews box.

ICE HOCKEY

Lightning to concentrate on hitting the target after cup stalemate

Lightning 0 Sheffield Steeldogs 0
Lightning 6 Swindon Wildcats 3
Manchester Phoenix 5 Lightning 2

LIGHTNING hit Swindon for six on Saturday night after agonisingly drawing a blank 48-hours earlier in the EPL Cup semi-final.

The Wildcats felt the full brunt of MK's frustrations after the rare 0-0 stalemate against Sheffield – which saw Nick Poole's skaters exit the competition in the last four.

Having lost the first leg 1-0 in Sheffield the tie was delicately poised at Planet Ice but Lightning could find no way past Steeldogs netminder Ben Bowns who was in imperious form.

Lightning stopper Barry Hollyhead also guarded his goal superbly but it wasn't Sheffield who needed to find the net.

The hosts, who had to put up with 'spoiling tactics' from the visitors, had a host of chances to score and were unlucky not to convert at least one of them.

Adam Carr and Leigh Jamieson both tested GB U20 keeper Bowns but they were unable to find a way through despite cranking up the pressure in the final period.

In the last seconds Hollyhead was withdrawn for an extra skater and Sheffield's Payette was sent to the penalty box – giving Lightning a six on four advantage – but the tactic didn't pay off.

The night was perhaps summed up when a shot hit the post with just seconds remaining.

Incredibly, it was the first time in the 22-year history of the rink that a senior game has ended without either team finding the target.

After not being able to buy a goal in the tie Lightning couldn't stop scoring against Swindon, bagging six in an excellent and much needed league victory.

Finnish signing Tuomas Tikkanen grabbed his first two goals in Lightning colours and Grant McPherson also helped himself to a couple, with further strikes from Lukas Zatopek and Matt Towalski.

Lightning couldn't maintain the good feeling going into Sunday's game at Manchester Phoenix though – with a nightmare start ending any hopes of a positive result.

Poole's side were three goals down within the opening nine minutes which left them with an almost impossible task from an early stage.

The league is now Lightning's sole focus and they are in need of some points after a recent slump which has seen them slide to sixth in the table, well out of the league title picture.

After riding high for most of the opening weeks of the season Lightning must now concentrate on the end of season play-offs, contested by the league's top eight sides, which have become their most realistic target.

This weekend sees a home game with Slough Jets on Saturday, followed by a trip to Peterborough Phantoms on Sunday, and finding the net regularly is a top priority for Poole.

He said: "We know we lost our way a little in finding the back of the net and nobody is more disappointed about that than we are.

"We've worked on it a lot in training and that started to pay off last weekend with six goals against Swindon.

"Tuomas was absolutely thrilled to get on the score sheet two nights running last week – we knew it was coming and he did too – and now he wants more.

"Against good teams we know we have to be switched on for 60 minutes and that will be the case this coming weekend against two very competitive sides.

"There's no reason at all why the goals shouldn't keep coming this weekend – we'll continue to work hard in training."

Lightning score against Swindon. Pic: Jez Tibbetts.

MKSPORT

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It's one in and one out at Lions – page 79

TWO GOOD: Dean Bowditch celebrates
Picture: Andy Handley

Doubly jubbly

Bowditch strikes twice as Dons down Bury

BY DAN PALMER
dan.palmer@mk-news.co.uk

DONS 2 BURY 1

DONS claimed their second win in a row with a convincing 2-1 victory over ten-man Bury at *stadiummk* last night.

Although the scoreline suggests a tight contest, this was as one-sided a match as you are likely to see with Karl Robinson's side dominating their opponents from start to finish.

The Shakers had to soak up a bombardment of Dons pressure after the interval but they somehow managed to hold out to prevent the home side from increasing a lead gained by Dean Bowditch's first half double.

There were two changes from Saturday's classy 5-0 demolition job of Oldham with midfield talisman Alan Smith and striker Charlie MacDonald returning to the side in place of Jabo Ibehre and Luke Chadwick.

Dons made an electric start and Smith almost made an instant impact with a well-struck shot from inside the area which fizzed over the bar within the opening three minutes.

Bury were already rattled and suffered an even bigger scare just moments later as Dons began the game in an ominous fashion.

Right-back James Tavernier, who has proved to be a more than capable replacement for recalled Tottenham loanee Adam Smith, raced forward on a dangerous run up the park and dinked in an inviting cross to the back post.

Top scorer Bowditch arrived with a well placed header which beat Shakers keeper Cameron Belford, but the visitors were able to lash the ball away from the line. Bowditch's claims that the ball had already crossed were waved away and Dons were then hit with a sucker-punch as Bury claimed the lead with their first meaningful attack of the match.

Steven Schumacher's precise through-ball dissected the home defence and former Don David Amoo evaded the offside flag to find himself in an ocean of space.

The midfielder, a real handful in the corresponding fixture at Gigg Lane, cooly rounded David Martin and slotted the ball into the empty net.

It was a goal which arrived against the run of play but Dons picked up from where they left off with another spell of pressure.

Darren Potter forced Belford into a save at his near post and it wasn't long until parity was restored

TURN TO PAGE 78

Injured Dons do not want to miss a kick

EIGHT injured Dons will have to battle through the pain barrier to aid the club's quest for promotion.

Boss Karl Robinson has revealed the extent of his side's injury woes and said that some of the problems are long-term complaints.

But the walking wounded – mostly attacking players – are prepared to play on anyway as Dons search for glory.

It does mean that Robinson will be forced into regular reshuffles of his pack, with unchanged sides unlikely.

"The top four isn't picked on performances at the moment, it's picked on who is the fittest," Robinson told MK NEWS.

"Our back four and the two holding midfielders generally pick themselves, but with the other four it's whoever is ready to play and we're guided by the physio and fitness coach.

"We've got to manage who can play and when they can play.

Alan Smith, Luke Chadwick, Charlie MacDonald, Dean Lewington and James Tavernier are among the injured.

Winger Paul Slane, a deadline day loan signing from Celtic, is also struggling with a knock and he has yet to arrive at Dons.

Robinson has asked the Scottish club to look after his rehabilitation to avoid further strain on a crowded treatment room.

The manager is still hoping to bolster his ranks by adding forward thinking players during the loan window.

He said: "It's a massive juggling act at the moment but the players are responding really well. There are long term injuries, but they can all play through them.

"I know in years gone by that a lot of players at this club might not have taken the field, but these players don't want to miss a single kick."

With the business end of the season approaching the injuries have struck at a far from ideal time.

And Robinson also admitted that the squad were not happy with the state of the stadiummk pitch – even though it wasn't a issue in Saturday's 5-0 win over Oldham.

He said: "There's no grass, it's just mud, and it's bobbly, lively and very quick.

"The ground staff have been excellent, it's just one of those years where you don't get any growth on the pitch. You have to play on with the cards that you're dealt with."

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